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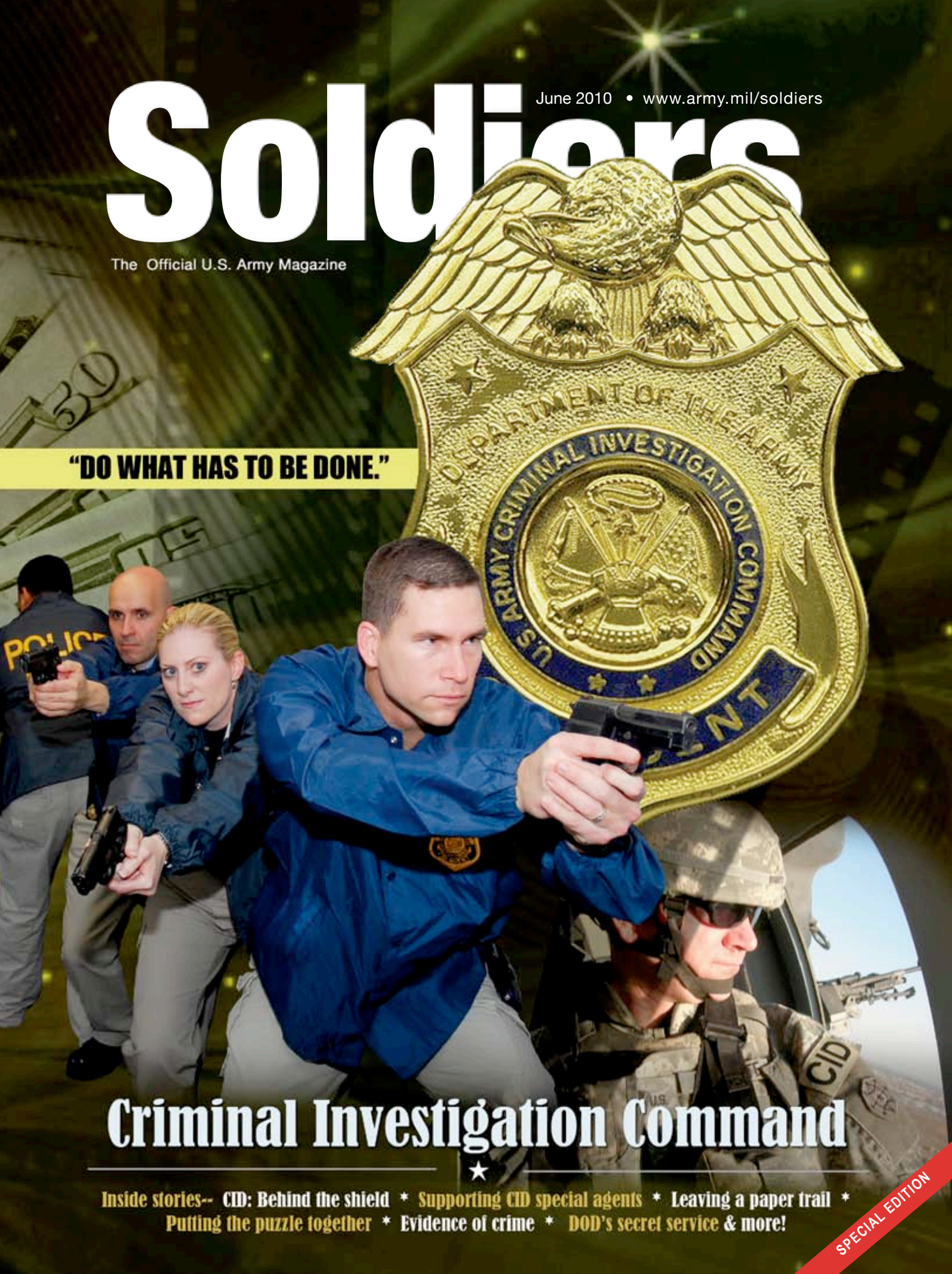
Soldiers

The Official U.S. Army Magazine

"DO WHAT HAS TO BE DONE."



Criminal Investigation Command

Inside stories-- CID: Behind the shield * Supporting CID special agents * Leaving a paper trail * Putting the puzzle together * Evidence of crime * DOD's secret service & more!

SPECIAL EDITION

Soldiers

June 2010 • VOLUME 65, NO. 6

Army CID Special Agents receive extensive training in crime scene investigations. Regardless of the environment, agents still must process a crime scene thoroughly. They are pictured here training and learning the challenges of investigating in a biohazard environment. (U.S. Army photo)

[On the Cover]

Criminal Investigation Command protects the Army's honor. (Cover montage by Peggy Frierson)

[Coming Next Month]

July 2010 - Fife and Drum Corps' 50th anniversary & The White House Transportation Agency marks its centennial.

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates is protected by agents during a visit to Iraq. CID special agents protect Army and DOD leaders at home and abroad. (Photo courtesy of U.S. Army CID)

June 2010

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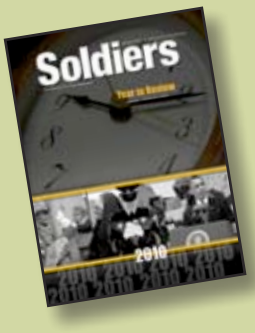

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Soldiers

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Soldiers

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Thomas Jefferson Awards Outstanding Flagship Writer 2009 Elizabeth M. Collins

June 1, 2010

To the Soldiers, civilians and Family members of the
United States Army Criminal Investigation Command:

I salute you for your countless contributions to our Army and to our country, as you continue your dual mission in direct support of overseas contingency operations and protecting the Soldiers, civilians, and Families at home and abroad.

Your dedication to provide a safe environment in which our Soldiers, civilians and their Families live, work and operate, has earned you the well-deserved reputation you hold today as one of the premier law enforcement agencies in the world.

The ongoing missions in Iraq and Afghanistan have developed an operational capability that expands many of CID's traditional roles. You have risen to the call.

The CID's work in forensics, biometrics and criminal intelligence, as well as your organization's criminal investigative expertise in conducting and mentoring local national investigations continues as a critical component to developing rule of law in theater. Your contributions in this arena have led to the investigation of complex criminal scenarios, exploitation and recovery of forensic evidence and development of local national police efficacy.

Your tremendous success in shaping theater governance and civil authority has measurably advanced theater operations, and paid tremendous dividends to combatant commanders. The commanders on the ground benefit first hand from the application of these capabilities in support of combat operations. Your efforts allow commanders to take the fight to the enemy, and most importantly, save lives.

After more than eight years of war, I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished as an Army. It has required a total team effort by active and reserve components of our entire force, both overseas and at home. Throughout, our Army law enforcement personnel have played an absolutely key and critical role.

You should be very proud of what you have accomplished on behalf of our Army and our Nation. Be assured that you have made a significant and lasting impact.

Thank you for your service, commitment and innumerable sacrifices.

Army Strong!

Peter W. Chiarelli
General, United States Army
Vice Chief of Staff

CID:

Story by Colby Hauser

Jeffrey Castro

THROUGHOUT modern military history, a specialized organization within the Department of Defense has patrolled the globe. Deployed in times of crisis, its members perform an extremely sensitive yet essential mission. They serve the greater-Army community and assist their fellow Soldiers.

The men and women of the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, commonly referred to as CID, have a clear mission: to pursue truth as they strive to make the Army stronger by bringing those few in the ranks who commit crimes, or those who commit crimes against the Army, to justice.

"Many people don't realize the impact that we have on a person's life, the impact we have on the Army," said Special Agent Edgar Collins, the deputy chief of investigative operations for CID. "In a sense, we are defending the honor of the United States Army… and that makes our job crucial."

Headquartered at Fort Belvoir, Va., CID is a worldwide network of highly trained special agents responsible for investigating felony-level crime. Their work environment is unforgiving. Murder, fraud, arson and sexual assault are just a few of the types of investigations spearheaded by these federal law enforcement professionals.

"This is not a television show, this is real life, and these are people's lives," said Special Agent Clifton Dyer. "The job can get really ugly sometimes, but what could be more important than

Special agents for Army CID not only investigate felony-level crimes, but are trained at processing crime scenes, unlike some other agency detectives.

Behind the shield

To pursue truth as they strive to make the Army stronger....

helping Soldiers and their Families in a time of crisis?

"It's just too bad that people sometimes focus only on the bad guy we put away, and not the Soldiers or the Family members that we helped," Dyer added.

Serving a population of more than 1 million Soldiers, civilians, contractors and Family members—both while at home and deployed—CID provides an invaluable resource to commanders at posts, camps and stations. CID special agents not only investigate crimes, they conduct logistics security operations and assessments, as well as criminal intelligence and economic crime/extremist criminal activity threat assessments. On the battlefield, CID special-agent criminal investigations are expanded to include war crimes, as well as anti-terrorism and force-protection missions.

CID comprises approximately 2,500 Soldiers and civilians, and is organized into six major subordinate groups. It is specifically structured to prevent undue command influence, allowing for unencumbered investigations. A stovepipe organization, CID reports directly to the chief of staff and secretary of the Army, to ensure all known and suspected crimes are investigated thoroughly and impartially.

Courtesy of U.S. Army CID

(Bottom) CID has been in existence since 1918. Below are some of the first CID credentials issued to special agents.

"It's unfortunate, but with most communities of 1 million plus, crime is going to happen," said Special Agent Jennifer Bryan, chief of economic crimes and logistic security. "Still, it speaks very highly of an organization that has the strength of character to investigate itself, regardless of what the outcome may be."

During World War I, American expeditionary forces entered France. As the Army expanded in both size and strength, so too did the crime rate. From this expansion, the need for a criminal investigative organization was born. In 1918, Gen. John J. Pershing directed the Army's provost

marshal general to organize the first Criminal Investigation Division within the newly established Military Police Corps. Today, the command retains the "D" in its official title, USACIDC, as a historical reminder; hence the common reference to the organization is "CID."

Established as a separate major Army command Sept. 17, 1971, USACIDC was redesignated as a direct reporting unit Oct. 1, 2004, reporting to the provost marshal general of the Army, who also serves as the commanding general of CID. This structure gives the Army's senior leadership a comprehensive, single source for all Army law enforcement matters.

Throughout its history, CID has maintained a high operational tempo, and continues to support Army missions and operations around the world, whenever and wherever the Army operates.

The workhorses of the command are the six subordinate units: 202nd Military Police Group (CID), 3rd Military Police Group (CID), 6th Military Police Group (CID), 701st Military Police Group (CID), the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory and the U.S. Army Crime Records Center.

Each of these organizations performs a vital function for CID, as well as providing the Army and DOD with personnel who possess the critical investigative skills unique to CID special agents. CID investigations are routinely, and successfully, prosecuted in military and federal judicial forums, as well as in state courts and foreign judicial venues across the globe.

The 3rd, 6th and 202nd Military Police Groups conduct felony criminal investigations, such as murder, sexual assault, grand larceny, drugs and child abuse. They also execute crime prevention operations and preserve the force and Army resources operations within a specific geographical area of responsibility. This also includes major Army commands. Ever vigilant, agents perform this mission both at home and while deployed.


U.S. Army CID


Jeffrey Castro

(Above) CID special agents are trained to investigate crime regardless of the circumstance or operational environment.

(Right) A CID special agent conducts an interview. Most crimes are solved by good detective work.

"Unlike other Army units, who have a specific mission deployed and then a training mission at home, our mission never stops," Collins said. "It's an unfortunate truth, but we often meet people on possibly the worst day of their life.

"These are people who have had a crime committed against them, not just their property, but them," Collins said. "So what we do, day in and day out, is extremely important."

The 701st Military Police Group, co-located with CID headquarters, is home to four specialized units. Just like its higher headquarters, it has a worldwide area of responsibility. These units are the Protective Service Battalion, the Computer Crimes Investigative Unit, the Field Investigative Unit and the Major Procurement Fraud Unit.

Much like the Secret Service, PSB is tasked with providing personal protection for key DOD and Army officials worldwide. This unique mission is mandated by Congress and includes protecting the secretary of defense, secretary of the Army and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

When requested, PSB special agents also provide protection for foreign military dignitaries, general officers and VIPs visiting Army installations stateside and overseas.

As the Army's cyber-detectives,


U. S. Army CID

A CID special agent participates in an active-shooter exercise at an on-post facility. CID agents continually train for any contingency that may arise in the course of their duties.

CCIU's primary mission is to conduct criminal investigations of intrusions and related malicious activities involving Army computers and networks.

Highly respected players within the cyber-security community, several CCIU special agents and alumni have been recently recognized by leading law enforcement organizations, such as the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Office of the United States Attorney General.

"Because of my background, I was able to go over and speak with our international partners at NATO and help address concerns about emerging cyber-security issues," said Howard A. Schmidt, special assistant to the president and cyber-security coordinator, and a former CID special agent.

While assigned to CCIU, Schmidt was detailed to the CID counterintelligence cell at the Joint Task Force-Computer Network Operations with the Defense Information Systems Agency.

The "quiet professionals" of CID, the Field Investigative Unit investigates cases requiring extreme sensitivity. This includes investigations involving classified activities, cases of national interest, of interest to the Army's leadership, special access programs and investigations of Army senior leaders or general officers.

The shining star in the war against fraud, the Major Procurement Fraud Unit centrally directs and coordinates investigations of fraud worldwide. Because of the complex nature of the investigations and the time involved, MPFU is comprised entirely of civilian special agents who have extensive experience investigating white-collar crimes.

MPFU investigations include procurement of major weapons systems, support systems, and civil and military construction contracts awarded and/or managed by the Army Corps of Engineers. Historically, MPFU's recoveries have exceeded the entire annual CID operating budget.

"We are one of the only commands that actually makes money for the Department of Defense," said Special Agent Michelle Chowaniec, the acting resident-agent-in-charge of the Hartford Fraud Resident Agency. "Most of our cases involve complex schemes, often with major corporations or defense contractors, and very sophisticated bad guys."

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory, located just outside Atlanta, provides forensic laboratory services to all DOD investigative agencies, as well as other federal law enforcement agencies. The laboratory conducts state-of-the-art forensic examinations in drug chemistry, trace evidence, serology (body fluids), DNA, latent prints, forensic documents, digital evidence and firearms and toolmarks.

"Most folks don't understand that you cannot process a crime scene in an hour, and a criminal investigation is not closed in a day, but it does make for good TV," said Special Agent Brian Janysek, a forensic science officer and the special-agent-in-charge of the Fort Belvoir Resident Agency. "Besides, our lab (USACIL) is the lab for all the military investigative agencies."

A unique aspect of CID special agents, especially those working general crime investigations, is their involvement in the case, from the moment they walk onto the scene until the case is closed. Some federal law enforcement agencies or major police departments have crime scene technicians or evidence collection teams to process a scene. CID special agents process the scene themselves, collecting evidence, photographing and recreating events, thus affording the investigators an intimate knowledge of what took place.

Established in 1950, the U.S. Army Crime Records Center, also collocated with CID headquarters, supports not only USACIDC and the DOD, but also foreign, federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.

As the keeper of all Army law enforcement information, USACRC receives, safeguards, maintains and disseminates information for law enforcement purposes. The center also serves as the authority for Army law enforcement Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act information.

Another major function of the center is the management of the Army law enforcement Polygraph Program. Special agent polygraphers attend a grueling six-month training program at the DOD Polygraph Institute, considered to be one of the most academically challenging courses in the military today.

Special agents are the backbone of the command. Often dressed in civilian attire, these highly skilled noncommissioned officers and warrant officers are

U.S. Army CID

(Left) CID special agents conduct investigations ranging from a barracks breaking and entering to homocide to arson. Unlike some agencies, CID special agents investigate a myriad of criminal acts, which makes them some of the most experienced investigators in the federal government.

Pfc. Rhonda Roth-Cameron

Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Division participate in "Operation Maylaya," recovering the remains of two Soldiers of the10th Mountain Division who were captured in May 2007, in Iskandariyah, Iraq. A CID special agent (right) maintains the integrity of the scene.

sworn federal law enforcement officers. There are some civilian special agents within the specialized units, specifically MPFU and CCIU, however, the bulk of the force is Soldiers, many who have attended advanced programs in law enforcement techniques, criminal investigations, tactics and procedures.

Special agents are recruited internally from across the Army from every military occupational speciality. However, all agents share a common background: attendance at the Apprentice Special Agent Course, conducted by the U.S. Army Military Police School at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

The comprehensive, 15-week course provides the foundation for all special agents with a basic level of knowledge pertaining to criminal investigations. Many within the federal law enforcement community, both military and civilian agencies, view the course as the best basic special agent training program in the United States.

"Our program is the best there is, period," said Special Agent Ronald Meyer, chief of the Physical Evidence Branch at USAMPS. "Whereas, at other institutions, their prospective special agents spend maybe two days learning how to process a crime scene, our students here at Fort Leonard Wood spend about two weeks.

"It's like trying to compare apples and meat," Meyer added. "There is no comparison between our program and anything else on the market."

Advanced training opportunities for those within the command include some of the premiere law enforcement training programs in the world, such as the FBI National Academy, Scotland Yard Academy or the Canadian Police College.

A unique aspect of these programs for CID special agents is that they are offered to those who need it most—the agent in the field. Other federal law enforcement agencies and major police departments often reserve this type of training for their senior investigators or chiefs of police.

CID continues to adapt to the needs of the 21st century, providing quality investigative support worldwide to commanders and warfighters alike.

Innovative programs, such as the addition of highly qualified experts in forensic science, investigations and prosecution to assist in the training of special agents, and the deployment of special sexual assault investigators to establish Special Victim Units at major Army installations throughout the world, are just a few examples of the command's dedication to the community it serves.

The key to success in meeting the Army's future investigative challenge is the Soldier- and civilian-agent whose continuing mission is to live the CID motto: "Do what has to be done." ❖

Colby Hauser works for CID Public Affairs.

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CSM Ed Foerstel, Retired

When Command Sergeant Major Ed Foerstel retired from the Army, he didn't lose his commitment to selfless service. His good friend and fishing buddy, Greg Harvey, needed a kidney transplant, and Foerstel stood up to answer the call. After being tested and deemed a match, Foerstel underwent surgery to donate his kidney to Harvey in February 2007. That is the true definition of a battle buddy, Harvey says. Stand by your friends and family and support each other through personal sacrifice ... that is overall Army strength.

The Nation's strength starts here.

U.S. Army CID

Supporting

CID special agents conduct a sensitive-site exploitation in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

U.S. Army CID

(Left) CID special agents recover a deceased victim. Special agents are charged with investigating crime where there is an Army nexus.

Story by Elizabeth M. Collins

CRIMINAL Investigation Command special agents frequently respond to and investigate terrible crimes—suicides, homicides, child abuse, sexual assaults, even multiple shootings, such as the Fort Hood, Texas, shooting last year—and their regular exposure to trauma can take its toll.

In fact, law enforcement officers in general have higher rates of alcohol abuse, divorce, domestic violence and anger-management problems, according to Donna Ferguson, the course manager and branch chief for the Critical Incident Peer Support course at the U.S. Army Military Police School at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

"It was because our civilian law enforcement was exposed to critical incident stressors, trauma—critical incident being an incident where they're exposed to the point that they're unable to cope during or following an incident, or unable to handle it psychologically," Ferguson said.

"We did the research, probably about six or seven years ago. We went to the commandant and said, 'We're not concerned about our MPs today. But within three to five years, we're going to have some potential problems with our agents, with our MPs, with our correctional personnel,'" she said.

"Unlike some other MOSs, on and off the battlefield we have a true mission, whereas if you're infantry or field artillery, you have a deployed mission and when you come off a deployment, you…go back into training.

"But our agents can't do that. Our agents are agents in the field on a deployment and also in a garrison. In a deployed environment, they're responding to life-threatening incidents. If they're in a garrison environment, they're responding to suicides…to child death cases, domestic violence cases where there've been horrific incidents, traffic fatalities," Ferguson continued.

Many special agents may never have a problem, but stress and trauma from these cases has the potential to lead to post-traumatic stress disorder and even suicide. Ferguson explained that this is in a small percentage of cases, however, and that it's important not to ignore many other symptoms that can result, including addiction, insomnia, depression, divorce, violence, illness, professional problems and burnout.

"One of the things I always tell them," she said, "is that their response to trauma, they see it as abnormal, when really, it's a normal reaction to an abnormal situation. It's not them who's the problem, it's the trauma that they see."

Not every person will respond the same way, she cautioned, adding that "no

"The program is not a replacement for either psychological or spiritual counseling...but it can be an important bridge that gives special agents the push they need to get additional help."

CID special agents

Donna Ferguson, branch chief for the Critical Incident Peer Support course, counsels a group of military police who were involved in a traumatic incident. The Critical Incident Peer Support course is designed to help military police and special agents cope with the psychological stress they are sometimes exposed to in their occupation. (Faces and identifiers have been blurred to protect the privacy of the Soldiers.) (U.S. Army photo)

reaction" is still a reaction, and symptoms may show up days or even weeks later. Ferguson helped develop the CIPS program, a peer-based support program that teaches agents to help each other in the immediate aftermath of a trauma.

The training is included in leader-development courses at USAMPS for a day or half a day, and many agents go back to their home station and request a full course. Ferguson sends trainers and materials to the units, based around the units' schedules, to maximize the number of attendees, and she and entire teams have deployed to help after major tragedies. They went to Fort Hood, for example, and even spent a month in Iraq last summer to help a unit that had faced a number of tragedies.

"A debriefing…takes the trauma and brings it down where they understand," Ferguson said. "If you've got five to seven people who respond to an incident, each person sees something different. What will happen to one, is that they might be angry. Another might be sad. Another might be frustrated…. (It) takes them through a psychological process that they don't even realize is happening. Even though every agent on the scene knows each other, they sit down and the de-briefer will say, 'Tell me what your role is.' 'Well, I was the first responder on the scene. I got the call from the MP desk….' First thing you do is restore all the facts of the case….

"Then you begin to ask them the question of what's happening right now: 'What are some of the emotions that you feel right now? How did you feel on the scene?' And you deal with that because usually, whatever their worst thought was, is what their nightmares are…. And then you deal with their signs and deal with their symptoms and then you start to bring them back. Now it makes sense to them," she continued.

CIPS also focuses on coping skills and communication. Ferguson said that many people, when trying to comfort someone, would tell that person not to cry, but that it's far better to let them feel emotion and simply support them.

The program is not a replacement for either psychological or spiritual counseling, she cautioned, but it can be an important bridge that gives special agents the push they need to get additional help. Often by the time they get professional help, it's too late and the problems are chronic and will take much longer to resolve, so CIPS is a form of early intervention. Or it may be all the help they need.

"It is saving lives," Ferguson said. "We get phone calls all the time from investigators and agents, from MPs, whether in theater or in the garrison…who say, 'This course changed my life. I understand now. I get it. You helped me….' Or Soldiers calling to say, 'Hey, I'm going to behavioral med. I just need to say thanks because it's tearing up my household if I don't go.'"

CIPS is "some of the best training out there," agreed Special Agent Ronald Meyer, the outgoing chief of the Forensics Training Branch at USAMPS. "For me, there are peers who I talk to and we just kind of share feelings and thoughts. On occasion, I've gone and talked to my chaplain (and) for me, running is a way I cope with some things, but everybody's got to develop a coping skill.

"One of my concerns is making sure the young agents develop the appropriate coping skills to deal with things, and, as a supervisory agent, recognizing those stressors and making sure they receive the proper counseling," he said. ❖

CID special agents carefully process evidence at a crime scene for further investigation. Crime-scene evidence from all service branches is processed at the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory near Atlanta. (U.S. Army CID photo)

Detectives in the digital age

CCIU

Story by Colby Hauser
Photos by U.S. Army CID

TIME waits for no one, and in today's digital age, neither does crime. No other medium has evolved as rapidly as the Internet, providing its users unparalleled access to news, information, services and entertainment by simply clicking a mouse. Surfing the Web has become the norm, but there are sharks in the waters.

Lurking below the surface, cyber criminals hunt, plot, scheme and attack unsuspecting systems, networks and users. E-mail scams, hacks and viruses are the tools of their trade. However, the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command's Computer Crimes Investigative Unit patrols this world, stalking those who exploit it, and bringing them to justice.

"The military presents a very large target for both international and domestic hackers," said Special Agent Michael Milner, the director of the CCIU. "That makes our mission extremely challenging, because there isn't an 'off switch' for the Internet."

Behind a vaulted door, in an unassuming red brick building on Fort Belvoir, Va., lays the battlespace of the Army's digital detectives. As the sole entity for conducting criminal investigations of intrusions and malicious activities involving Army computer networks, CCIU maintains a constant watch over the Army digital footprint. With personnel assigned at Belvoir, and an office at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., the members of CCIU are tasked with a challenging mission and a global area of operations.

"Basically, our special agents go in and conduct virtual autopsies on hacked systems," Milner said. "From there, we figure out exactly what happened and then go after the bad guys."

Army CID recognized the expanding role of computers in criminal activities and investigations, and provisionally established CCIU as the Computer Crime Investigative Team in January 1998. Prior to this, only a single forensic examiner at the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory was dedicated to investigating computer crime.

"We were originally created out of the Field Investigative Unit, a specialized unit within CID that investigates classified programs, and given the primary responsibility for investigating intrusions into U.S. Army computer networks," Milner said. "Now, as the Army moves to an ever more net-cen-

tric environment, the opportunity for cyber crime will only continue to increase."

In September 1998, the team became the Computer Crime Resident Agency and moved to Fort Belvoir.

The CCRA was redesignated in November 1999 as the Computer Crime Investigative Unit and separated from FIU, becoming a subordinate element of the 701st Military Police Group (CID). In January 2000, CCIU was officially established as a criminal investigative organization within CID.

Because investigations of this nature require a specialized level of computer expertise, special agents assigned to CCIU receive advanced computer training from the Defense Cyber Investigations Training Academy, the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and other technical experts. CCIU special agents also use their extensive knowledge of information technology to provide guidance to other CID special agents who conduct investigations involving computers.

By its very nature, and due to the rigorous training required, CCIU is made up of civilian special agents. Many served in uniform as CID special agents, before specializing in computer crimes and cyber security.

Since its creation, CCIU has been a key element in the successful prosecution of numerous computer intrusion matters, and has been recognized around the globe. CCIU, as well as its special agents and alumni, have been honored for their expertise and development of technological products in the realm of cyber security.

An example of this was the creation of the Rapid Extraction and Analysis Program. With a global mission, Milner said staffing challenges prevented agents from physically responding to every cyber incident, and CCIU needed a solution. The REAP was that solution.

The program was developed in-house, at no cost to the government, and allowed non-CCIU personnel to deploy the program across various Army computer platforms. Once deployed, the program preserves collected digital evidence in an automated manner following computer intrusions, expedites critical threat information to network defenders, and analyzes malicious software.

"What's great about the program is when the bad guys do one thing, we can adapt," said Special Agent David Shaver, who as a result of his work developing the REAP, was selected as the 2009 August Vollmer Excellence in Forensic Science Award winner. The Vollmer award is a national award and is the highest recognition for current or past contribution by an individual in the field of forensic science.

"CCIU is one of the best outfits working in cyber law enforcement today," said Howard Schmidt, special assistant to the president of the United States and cyber-security coordinator. Schmidt, who is a former CID special agent, was appointed by President Barack Obama to head cyber security for the White House while serving at CCIU.

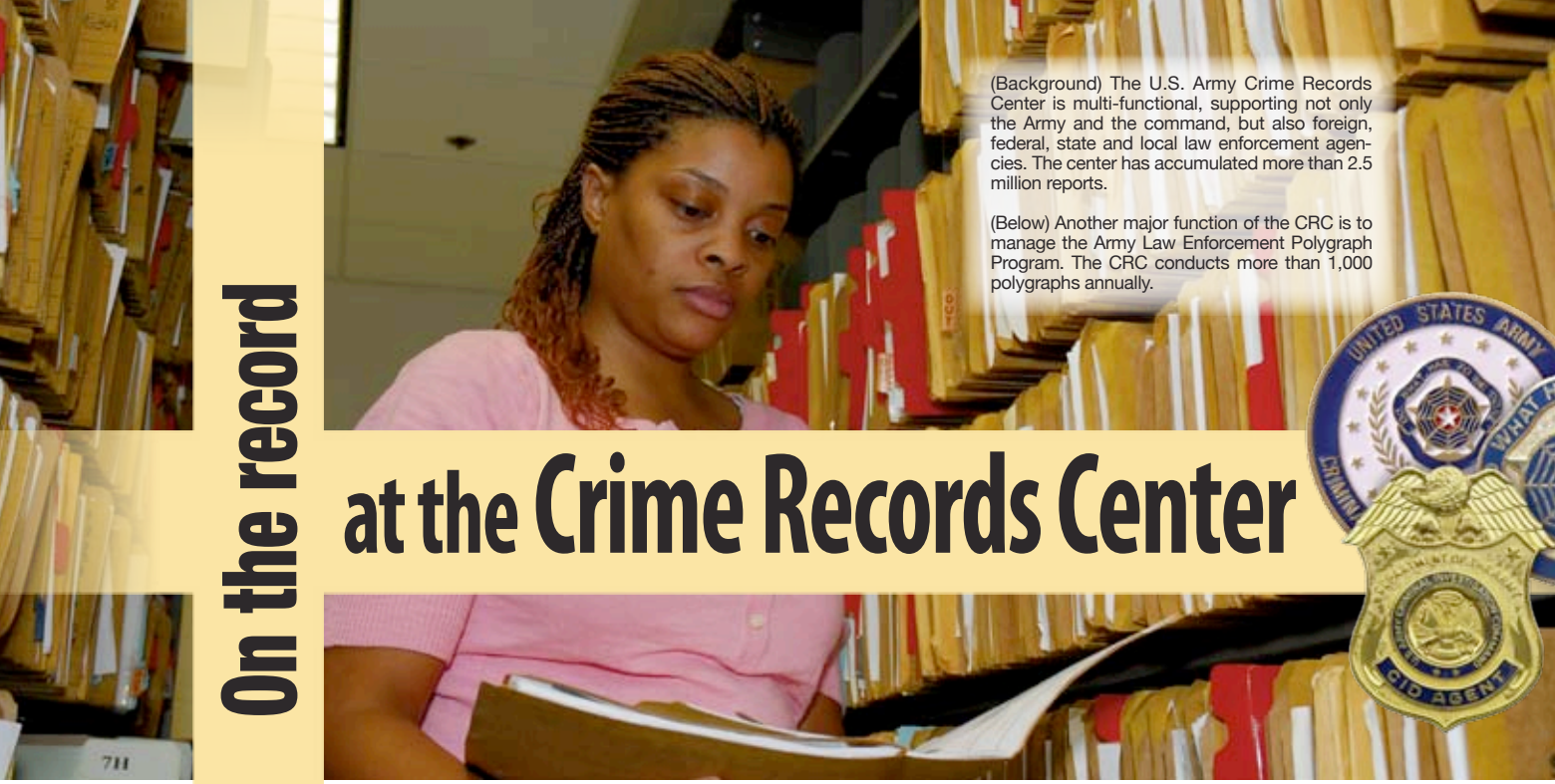
"Without my time in CID and government service, I don't know if I would have had the insight and depth of understanding of government and how it relates to cyber security," he said. "I think that staying involved in those communities helped tremendously."

1 Agents assigned to CCIU are civilian special agents, highly trained in computer analysis and forensics.

2 A CID special agent performs data recovery in support of an ongoing criminal investigation.

3 Digital evidence comes in various forms throughout the course of computer crime investigations.

Currently, Milner is serving as the senior U.S. advisor to the Iraq Ministry of Interior's National Information and Investigation Agency—Iraq's equivalent to the FBI—providing strategic counsel on criminal investigative and intelligence matters. This marks the first time a CID leader has been assigned to a senior staff position with U.S. Forces-Iraq. ❖



(Background) The U.S. Army Crime Records Center is multi-functional, supporting not only the Army and the command, but also foreign, federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. The center has accumulated more than 2.5 million reports.

(Below) Another major function of the CRC is to manage the Army Law Enforcement Polygraph Program. The CRC conducts more than 1,000 polygraphs annually.

On the record at the Crime Records Center

Story by Jacqueline M. Hames
Photos by Jeffrey Castro

THE U.S. Army Crime Records Center at Fort Belvoir, Va., receives, stores and maintains about 40 years worth of criminal history records for the Criminal Investigation Command and other Army law enforcement entities.

Though owned and operated by CID, the Crime Records Center has an Army mission, Phillip J. McGuire, director, explained.

The overall mission of the CRC can be broken into three primary objectives: receipt, maintenance and retention of records; the Freedom of Information/ Privacy Act program; and the Army Law Enforcement Polygraph Program, McGuire said.

"On the CID side of the house, we receive all reports of investigations that CID conducts. They assume investigative responsibility, we receive that investigative report and maintain it," McGuire said. "On the military police side of the house, we only receive subject military police reports."

In addition to maintaining and receiving records, the CRC will also release those records for various reasons and purposes related to administrative and law enforcement use, McGuire added.

To release those records, organizations or CID agents have to query the Records Division, Chester Longcor, the division chief, explained:

"CID agents and military police are vetted through us, and they have telephonic access. No one else has telephonic access to us because of DOD rules and Freedom of Information-type things. Anyone else has to come to us is a written document with a signature on the bottom."

There is someone available 24 hours a day at the CRC for name checks and database management.

"We release (records) throughout the DOD for security purposes. We have significant interface with local law enforcement, they query us all the time," McGuire said. "We post records to the NCIC, National Crime Information Center, under certain thresholds that they query against and come to us for the actual files."

The records division supports criminal name checks, childcare name checks, senior officer promotion name checks, and releases records for use in

different studies, like sexual assault studies, Longcor said. They also run the Soldier-Civilian Offense program, which ensures that Army personnel or former Army personnel that have been arrested have up-to-date criminal records at the CRC.

"We average about 25,000 name checks a month. It's constantly going, all the time," Longcor said.

The Freedom of Information/Privacy Act program at the CRC is one of the most important issues today, McGuire said. One major effort at the CRC is providing death investigation records to Family members.

"What an FOIA request is, is a third party requesting a document. A privacy request is, of course, you want the record that pertains to you," McGuire explained. "We do about 3,000 of those a year. Now, that's a little misleading. Three thousand requests isn't 3,000 records; one request could entail hundreds of records."

The CRC also runs the amendment program. In addition to making people aware of what records exist and providing copies of what they can have, the amendment program allows an individual to request a correction on a record if there is an inaccuracy, McGuire said.

The other main CRC responsibility is the Army Law Enforcement Polygraph Program, used to conduct criminal-specific issue testing. McGuire, also a certified polygraph examiner, said they conduct about 1,500 tests a year.

"We're very proud of our program," he said. The federal government is modeled after the Army program, and during the 1970s, the CRC was one of the first organizations to establish a centralized quality-control system for polygraph testing.

"Polygraphs are a very powerful investigative tool, but it's also controversial, so we keep it under control. After the test has been administered, we do a 100-percent quality control of all polygraph examinations," McGuire added.

Emory Middleton, chief of polygraph and an examiner, explained that all examiners undergo extensive training. "All the examiners within the CID are senior agents, but they are also federally certified examiners," he said.

Applicants go through an internal evaluation process, and must hold a minimum of a baccalaureate degree. Applicants attend the Defense Academy for Credibility Assessment's basic polygraph course, which is taught at the graduate level, Middleton said. Once that school is completed, there is a six-month internship where applicants conduct exams under supervision.

"After you successfully complete that, then you're brought up here for evaluation to see if you're not only able to properly conduct a polygraph examination, but you have that particular skill set, and then you are certified by the commanding general," Middleton said.

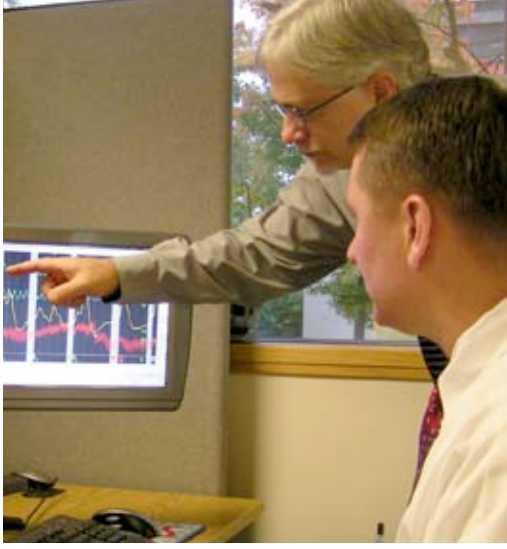
All examiners must meet a continuing education requirement of about 40 hours a year, and must conduct a set number of exams within six months to maintain certification.

While polygraph results themselves are not usually admissible in court, Middleton said, any statements made during the testing period are admissible. Middleton also pointed out that no one can be made to take a polygraph test in their arena—if an individual does not sign the consent form, the examiner will not conduct the test, "and no adverse action can be taken against them based solely on their refusal to take a polygraph exam."

The full polygraph exam consists of three parts: the pretest, in which the case facts are discussed; the actual polygraph test; and the post-test, where the examiner speaks with a subject about the polygraph exam, Middleton explained.

Polygraph results are reliable and valid with a "confident, school-trained examiner conducting an exam in accordance with established techniques," he added.

The CRC is important to CID and the Army because it helps support security measures, ensures the quality of the force and helps protects the force through the polygraph and FOI/Privacy Act programs, McGuire said. ❖



(Above) CID special agents review a recent polygraph examination.

(Above and below) CRC employees handle more than 3,000 requests for information annually. The CRC receives, safeguards, maintains and disseminates information from Army law enforcement records, and also serves as CID's Freedom of Information and Privacy Act authority.

21st-century CRIME

Story by Elizabeth M. Collins

DNA—three small letters that have drastically changed the world and forever altered how crimes are investigated and prosecuted.

More formally known as deoxyribonucleic acid, DNA contains the genetic makeup of every living organism and is unique to each individual, except in the case of identical twins. DNA collected from a crime scene can be compared against a suspect's to prove whether or not he was present at the scene.

DNA examiner Christina King begins the DNA extraction process at the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory at Fort Gillem, Ga. DNA identification is so sensitive that examiners take special precautions not to contaminate samples with their own DNA. USACIL also maintains a staff DNA database to ensure no one from the lab comes up as an "unknown." (Photo by Jeffrey Castro)

The DNA Branch at the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory, Fort Gillem, Ga., which serves all branches of the Department of Defense, has recently doubled in size. About 50 examiners at the lab process around 90-95 cases a month, mostly looking at blood, semen and saliva, although they also have the capability to examine tissue, urine and hair.

In the past two decades, DNA techniques have become so sensitive and advanced that examiners can often obtain usable DNA samples by testing places a suspect or victim merely touched. If a suspect grabs a victim's lapels, for example, examiners may be able to obtain DNA from those lapels.

In addition, chief DNA examiner Jeffrey "Fletch" Fletcher can lift DNA from the underarms or collar of a seemingly unstained shirt, and has been able to identify, or clear, alleged sex offenders based on touch DNA on victims' bra cups. He has also found the DNA of victims on the inside of suspects' underwear.

"You'd be amazed what we can get DNA from," said Fletcher. In fact, the DNA replication, extraction and comparison process has become so streamlined that a sample as small as a pencil point can be processed in a matter of days. The hardest part is finding the DNA to test.

"When we're talking about doing a sexual assault examination—and let's say it has multiple suspects, and let's say the bedding has not been laundered in quite some time…you're looking at maybe a comforter or a sheet that has 80-plus stains, and…you have to almost test them all," Fletcher explained, adding that when he worked for a state crime lab, he couldn't spend weeks pouring over evidence the way he does at USACIL.

"What I like about CID and the military is, 'do what has to be done.' If it takes a little longer to get a case done, we want to get it done the first time. We're a little more thorough in our analysis in the sense that we would examine evidence that maybe in a state lab wouldn't be probative. From this aspect, we're able to look at everything," he continued.

In order for a DNA sample to do investigators and prosecutors any good, however, it must be compared against a "known standard," in other words, a sample taken from a suspect or victim. Once the two samples have been processed, a computer printout lists the number of times each particular code repeats itself, and the examiner compares the two.

Although 99.7 percent of DNA is the same for everyone, according to Fletcher, certain regions on the DNA

(Below left) DNA examiner Phil Nace processes a DNA sample at the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory at Fort Gillem, Ga. Scientists need only a sample about the size of a pencil point to obtain useable DNA. (Photo by Jacqueline M. Hames)

(Below) CID special agents gather evidence at a crime scene for processing at the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory. (Photo by U.S. Army CID)

strand vary greatly. Examiners look at about 15 of those regions, and can say with certainty if two DNA samples came from the same person, and add a statistical weight. Fletcher said this is where experts come up with numbers like a one-in-50-billion chance of the sample occurring naturally in a different person. Since there are far less than 50 billion people on earth, it's an identity statement. All it says, however, is that a suspect was at a crime scene or came in contact with a victim, it doesn't say why or how. Those questions are left for investigators to answer.

Lab workers also upload samples from suspected criminals to the Combined DNA Indexing System, a database of DNA designed and maintained by the FBI. Crime labs nationwide use the system as a way to identify an unknown sample, if a potential criminal has offended before and is in the database, or to link cases. For example, a sample uploaded at USACIL might match a sample uploaded by a Florida crime lab.

"That way we can coordinate with one another to generate investigative leads that help solve crimes," said Mike Mann, a CODIS technician at USACIL.

And while DNA may have revolutionized the way crimes are solved, to the extent that investigators and forensic scientists moan that juries expect DNA in every case and discount other evidence, new research is about to revolutionize DNA itself.

According to Jeff Salyards, the director of science and technology (i.e. research and development) at USACIL, the Army and DOD have partnered with the Departments of Homeland Security, Justice and State, as well as private labs, on a "DNA-on-a-chip" project using microfluidics and nanotechnology. It promises to drastically increase the number of samples that can be run at once, and decrease the time it takes to do so.

"The way we do DNA right now is with something called PCR: polymerase chain reaction," Salyards said. "Even if you just have a tiny, tiny bit of DNA, it's OK, because we make copies of the DNA. In order to do that, we need to heat it up and cool it down. One of the advantages of (using microfluidics), is that the material flows through something that's skinnier than a hair—this little tiny microfluidic chamber. You can heat this chip up with 16 of those lanes in there and cool it down much faster than a plastic tube.

"Instead of taking hours, maybe even a couple days, it takes minutes. In a rush DNA job right now, we can probably do it in two or three days. This thing will take 45 minutes to do 16 samples. So that's a pretty exciting project," Salyards explained.

The first operational prototype should be available this summer. While it could experience issues initially, as with many prototypes, he believes it will eventually work and that the future will take forensic science beyond DNA.

"I suspect in 15 years…I'll be gray-haired with my walker and we'll have a beer joking about 'Remember when we used to do DNA?' I think it will be something like that," Salyards said. "There are some possible replacement molecules. One of them, related to DNA, is something called RNA. Your DNA is a sort of recipe for how to make protein in your body and there's an intermediate step that… reads the DNA and then it goes out and makes the proteins.

"As a result, there's a lot more RNA floating around in your cells. There's one copy of DNA and all kinds of chunks of RNA because your body's constantly making these proteins. It may be that those would survive longer in degraded samples. It may be that there's a whole branch of biochemistry that we just don't understand well enough, that we might find some other marker that's equally variable, equally unique, that's maybe easier to test, that goes even faster." ❖

(Below) DNA extraction and identification equipment at the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory at Fort Gillem, Ga. The new DNA wing was completed several months ago and takes up about half of the lab. (Photos by Jacqueline M. Hames)

(Below far right) Lead DNA examiner Jeffrey "Fletch" Fletcher explains the DNA extraction, replication and identification process at the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory at Fort Gillem, Ga. (Photo by Jacqueline M. Hames)

Leaving a paper trail

Story by Jacqueline M. Hames

THE Forensic Analysis Division at the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory at Fort Gillem, Ga., is extensive, comprising seven analytical areas. Most are the usual things you might think about when you think of forensics: DNA, trace evidence, drug chemistry, latent prints and firearms and toolmarks.

However, two areas don't immediately come to mind: forensic documents and digital evidence.

The Digital Evidence Branch analyzes computers, mobile phones, e-mails, video and photos for CID and all other military law enforcement agencies, David Deitze, branch chief, explained. It's divided into three main sections: photographs or imaging, which is what the branch has historically focused on, computer forensics, and audio/video enhancement.

"About 50 percent of our work here is (related to) child pornography, 20-25 percent is (related to) sexual assaults, and the rest consists of fraud, larceny, suicide—anything that is an offense in the military," Dietze said of the variety of cases that come through the branch from across the services.

Everything that comes into the branch is copied onto "sterile media" (a wiped hard drive or blank digital storage device), during the analysis process, so cases won't be mixed up. Once on the sterile media, the analysts perform string searches with terms that are indicative of the case being worked, and the computer will pull up matches, Dietze explained. The matches are examined and the results burned onto a disk, to be sent back to the special agent or prosecutor.

Often it takes weeks or months to process digital evidence, due to the volume of information. One case the branch is working has 16 terabytes of data, Dietze said.

"Each of our sections has specialized training. The imaging section is a two-year course, the audio/video

A special agent monitors a surveillance camera. The Digital Evidence Branch analyzes material captured on security cameras, cell phone videos, and other recording devices for clues to help CID special agents. (Photo by U.S. Army CID)

enhancement is a two-year course, and (computer forensics) is a one-year course," Dietze said. "We generally hire people, especially into this section, that already have certification in computer forensics."

In the audio/video section, analysts process evidence using new digital techniques to make images clearer, and authenticate evidence to ensure it wasn't altered, Carl Kriigel, team leader, explained.

Christina Malone, a digital-evidence trainee, explained that her section analyzes photographic comparisons and image alterations, looking for inconsistencies in the image, perspective, pixel size, or the direction of light.

"One of the fancier things we have now is the 3-D scanner," Malone said. The scanner uses a laser grid to determine how far objects are from the scanner, creating a three-dimensional image.

This tool is primarily used for documenting crime scenes, but can also be used for blood-spatter interpretation measurements, Dietze said.

Another useful tool in the imaging section is the military uniform uniqueness statistical estimator, which detects pattern matches in military uniforms, and uses statistics to determine the likelihood of that portion of a pattern appearing in a specific place on a uniform, Malone said. The tool will match the pattern sample to a database, and trace it to a suspect.

Uniform patterns are seemingly random, much like handwriting, but an expert eye and a little help from a good tool go a long way, Malone added.

The Forensic Document Branch conducts mostly handwriting analysis, Joseph Parker, division chief, explained.

"We don't tell personalities from handwriting, nor do we believe that it can be done," Parker cautioned. "The research that has been done on that shows that there is no consistency in the results…we only work for identification of someone."

Joseph Parker, Forensic Document Branch chief, explains the forensic analysis of a signature. (Photo by Elizabeth M. Collins)

A good portion of the analysis the branch conducts is forgeries, like altering medical prescriptions, but they also analyze other writing samples, such as suicide notes. Handwriting-analysis training is extensive; the program takes full-time students a minimum of two years to complete. The students look at tens of thousands of writings, Parker said, and discuss them with experienced examiners "so they can learn what's important and what's not important for identification or elimination purposes.

"What we're doing is subjective, I have to convince the judge and the jury that I know what I'm doing, and here's why," Parker added.

The most effective tool at the division's disposal is its people. "Most of our work, particularly for handwriting, occurs between our ears," Parker said.

Academic research conducted over the past several years has supported as much, indicating that when there are two examiners, one reviewing the work of the other, the resulting error rate is close to zero, he added.

Jerry Gayle, forensic-document examiner, explained that handwriting is made unique by small changes in letters individuals accumulate over time, as writing becomes more of an innate process.

"These characteristics accumulate, and by the time a person becomes an adult it's habit, and it's the totality of these characteristics that makes writing identifiable," Gayle said.

Most of the obvious writing characteristics are the way letters are formed, slant of the writing, and so forth, Gayle said. Some of the less obvious characteristics are "I" dots and "T" crossings, the upper and lower extenders, and internal proportions of tall letters to the main body of the handwriting.

"No one of those characteristics like that is sufficient for identification, but taken together, enough uncommon characteristics make it possible to identify a person's handwriting," Gayle said.

To conduct an examination, investigators compare a collection of known writings (writings known to be by the subject), and a collection of questioned writings.

"During the examination process we sit down and we go through the questioned and known handwriting


Joseph Parker, Forensic Document Branch chief, pours a special toner over a document processed in the indentation-detection device. (Photo by Jeffrey Castro)

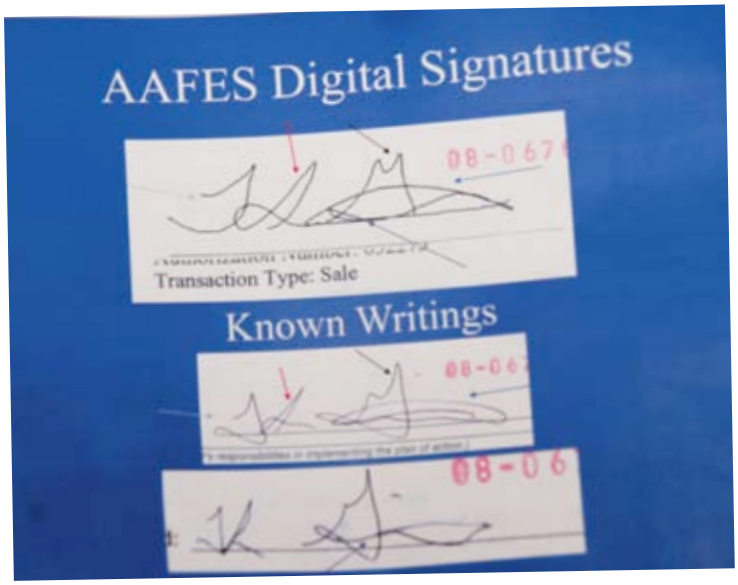
letter by letter, comparing it to see if matching characteristics are found, or if characteristics are found that are distinctly different," Gayle explained.

"We have a range of conclusions of different strengths to describe the strength of evidence that we found, and of course, in some cases, for varying reasons, we can't reach a conclusion at all. And that's one of our conclusions, that the person could neither be identified or eliminated," he added.

The human eye does most of the handwriting examinations, but examiners also employ stereomicroscopes to look at details in the ink line, Gayle explained.

Despite the subjective nature of handwriting analysis, it can be very effective if the examiner is well trained, Parker said.

While forensic document analysis and computer forensics may not seem as glamorous as some of the other disciplines within CID, they are integral parts of the organization, providing valuable information and insight to investigators. ❖



A close-up comparison of a digital receipt signature against known writing reveals the slight differences in the handwriting. Examiners look at the way letters are formed and the slant of the writing to help make an accurate analysis. (Photo by Elizabeth M. Collins)

Jerry Gayle, a forensic document examiner, displays a comparison of a digital receipt signature against known writings. (Photo by Elizabeth M. Collins)

Team leader Carl Kriigel (standing), of the Digital Evidence Branch, assists another examiner in analyzing an audio file. (Photo by Elizabeth M. Collins)

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CID

Putting the puzzle together

Story by Jacqueline M. Hames

THE Drug Chemistry Branch at the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory receives samples of unknown chemicals from investigators in the field and analyzes them, attempting to identify them and determine how much of the substance is present in a sample.

Dan Reinhardt, chief of the Drug Chemistry Branch, explained that though a chemist may be able to identify a substance, he hasn't solved the case—the special agents have to do that; the Drug Chemistry Branch just provides one of the integral pieces.

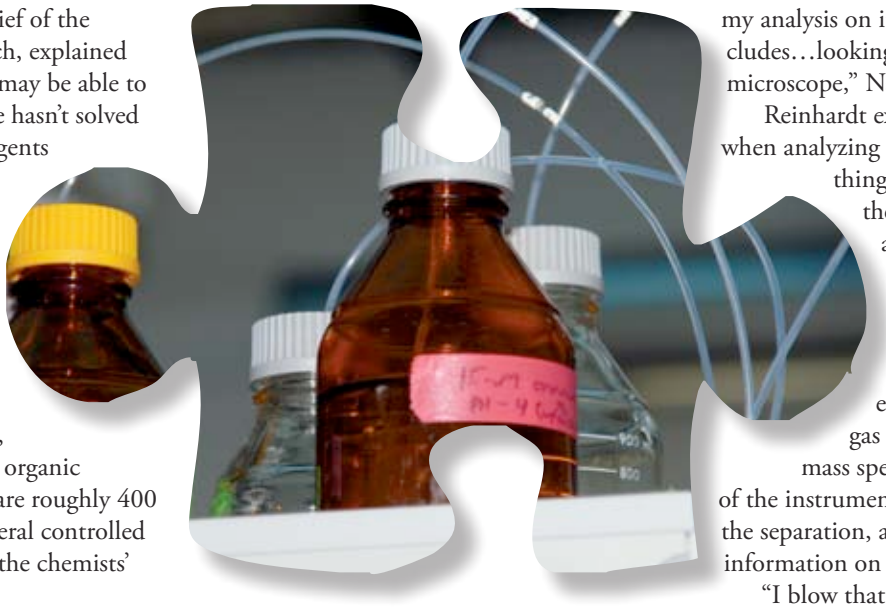
"What we're trying to do is identify, first, any controlled-substances," Reinhardt, who has a doctorate in organic chemistry, said. There are roughly 400 compounds on the federal controlled substance list, making the chemists' job a bit daunting.

If a chemist can't tell what a compound is from one test, they often run it through other types of tests, which may help identify the compound.

"After that we can identify a lot of the prescription drugs, which expands the whole realm. But we do that more on a case-by-case basis," he added.

The branch looks at about 1,200 cases a year, which is more than one third of the cases that come into USACIL, Reinhardt said. Most of the cases involve marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamines or other illegal drugs, but the branch also sees many drug-facilitated sexual assaults, and looks for alcohol or other legal and illegal substances.

"We like, at a very minimum, to have two different really strong confirmatory tests on the same exhibit, and then we'll go 'OK,'" and positively identify a substance," Reinhardt said. "The more tests you do, the better it gets."



One forensic drug chemist, Jason Nawin, demonstrated how to start processing a bulk quantity of marijuana. He was processing roughly 100 pounds of the drug, packaged in several large bales. First, Nawin had to weigh the drug. He spread brown paper on the examining table to gather anything that might fall, and then opened the bale and began to weigh the marijuana.

The smell was overwhelming. Another chemist swept up smaller chunks of the sample that escaped to the floor. "That's the problem you get when with bulk quantities this big—it's hard to keep things clean," Nawin commented.

"The next step…is that I'm going to take samples from each bale—I'm going to weigh them all, take samples of them all, and then I'm going to do my analysis on it, which includes…looking (at it) through a microscope," Nawin explained.

Reinhardt explained that when analyzing a drug, the first thing to do is break the compound apart, to determine the structure of the compound, known as structural elucidation. The gas chromatography mass spectrometer is one of the instruments that performs the separation, and provides information on the compound.

"I blow that (compound) apart with an electron beam and pick up all the little fragments, the molecules, count them electronically, and graph them," Reinhardt said. From there, a chemist can start to identify the substance.

In addition to identifying unknown substances, the branch determines the quantity of some samples.

"A typical example would be, the military uses morphine injectors, so you have a solution of morphine that they use for the battlefield…say somebody gets a hold of those and takes half of the liquid out and replaces it with a

Jeffrey Castro

Jason Nawin, a forensic drug chemist at the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory, processes and prepares to test about 100 pounds of marijuana CID seized as evidence.

saline," Reinhardt said.

"(When) somebody in the field starts figuring out what's going on, they'll come to us," he said. The chemists identify the morphine, but determine it's not the correct level, that half of it may be missing. "We turn that back over to the investigator and the investigator, fortunately or unfortunately, has most of the hard work going on…I can't tell what happened, but I can tell them what it's not supposed to be.

"I just think of us as one little piece of the puzzle. With that, we also have to get the agents involved," Reinhardt said.

"We all get one little piece of the puzzle to try to pull the whole picture together," he said. ❖


CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS
CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS

Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.
Army CID special agents apply advanced crime scene processing techniques during the Advanced Crime Scene Course at the U.S. Army Military Police School. Special agents routinely attend advanced criminal investigative courses, offered by both military and civilian law enforcement agencies.
— Photo courtesy of CID Public Affairs

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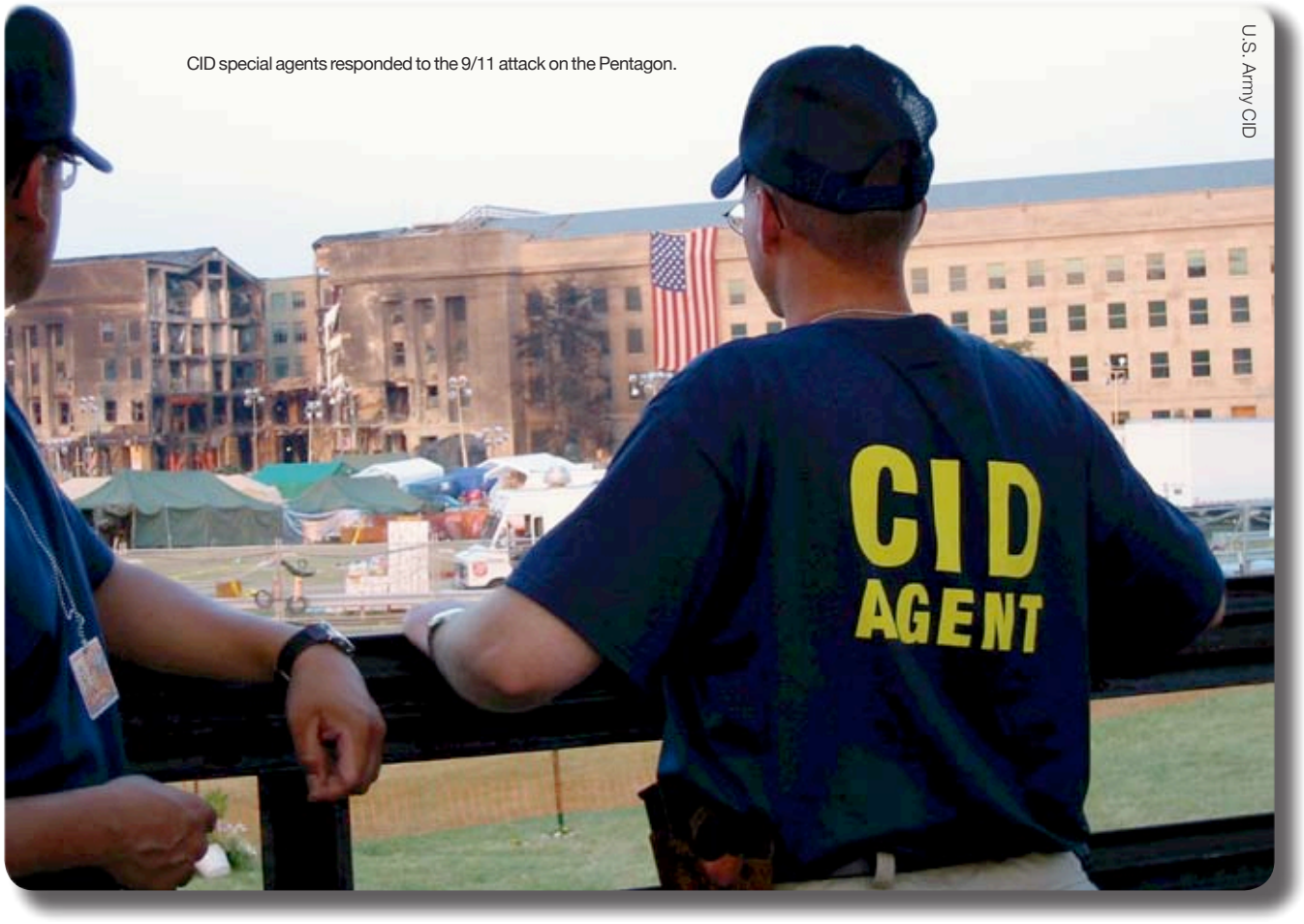


CID special agents responded to the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon.

U.S. Army CID

CID's Field Investigative Unit

Story by Jeffrey Castro

THE Field Investigative Unit is a specialized unit which provides a full range of criminal investigative services and support within the Army, to include investigations of senior Army leaders, cases with national attention and other designated sensitive situations as directed by the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command.

The FIU also conducts investigations in the areas of contract and acquisition fraud within research and development, and testing and evaluations programs funded by the Army.

In April 1984, Gen. Maxwell R. Thurman, then the Army's vice chief of staff, directed USACIDC to conduct an investigation into allegations of misconduct concerning personnel associated with a classified program. The unit was initially formed as a task force. However, after four years and an expanding mission and caseload, the task force evolved into a permanent organization called the Field Investigative Activity.

CIDC reorganized all specialized units and placed them under the 701st Military Police Group (CID) in 1996, and the activity was redesignated as the FIU.

The special agents assigned to the FIU are of the highest caliber and have extensive investigative experience. Special agents aren't assigned to the FIU, they are nominated. Nominees go through a board review that looks over their entire service record, as well as their overall suitability for the position.

A former FIU agent (who cannot be named for security reasons) said it feels great knowing that you are one of a handful of agents entrusted with the responsibility and independence associated with the work FIU does. She explained that one of the most challenging aspects of being an FIU agent was to investigate within specific security parameters.

"It's a rewarding job…you don't do it for the medals or the glory, you do it because it's the right thing to do." ❖

Jeffrey Castro

CID uses [illegible] state-of-the-[illegible] to lift fingerprints from evidence, as seen above.

THE EVIDENCE OF CRIME

Great attention to detail is critical to CID special agents when processing crime scenes.

Story by Jacqueline M. Hames

WHEN the Army's Criminal Investigation Command's special agents need to have evidence for a case analyzed, they send it to a cutting-edge laboratory located in Fort Gillem, Ga. The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory isn't like the labs seen on television, but the facility is impressive.

Forensic evidence arrives at the lab's evidence-processing branch via a secure delivery system, Alonzo Rhodes, branch chief, explained. From the crime scene to the lab, all evidence is carefully handled, packaged and maintained to ensure its integrity throughout the process.

"This is where all evidence basically meets the lab, and is processed for distribution throughout the lab to the appropriate branches," Rhodes said, while showing off the crime lab's evidence receiving area.

The packages, which are called containers, are stored in a vault, with the newest evidence at the front. When the technicians bring the containers out to process, they assign them tracking numbers before beginning the casework, he said.

"Most (containers) are double-packaged, with documents within the inside of the outer wrapping, while evidence is in the second wrapping," Rhodes said. "All we really do is open the outer packaging, take the paperwork out, review the paperwork," and reseal the package before routing it to the appropriate evidence branch.

The evidence-processing branch is equipped to take something as large as a vehicle, and once even processed a chimney, Rhodes said. If evidence is too large to send, investigators can always contact them and request that an examiner come out to the scene.

Once the evidence is processed, it's sent to the appropriate branch. Sometimes the container must go to more than one branch.

"There's a priority of branches depending on what examinations need to be completed by those branches, say like trace," Rhodes said. "Trace" refers to trace evidence, a very small piece of evidence left at a crime scene that may be used to identify or link a suspect to a crime.

"Trace goes through first, because if everybody goes and opens that up it messes up the evidence within. It gives you cross contamination," he added.

Chris Taylor, chief of the Trace Evidence Branch, said there are about six collection rooms used to process evidence, like clothing, for fibers, glass or paints. "These are considered clean

Elizabeth M. Collins

Forensic scientist Amanda Atkins analyzes the casting of a tire impression and compares the sample to a tire database for identification at the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory at Fort Gillem, Ga.

rooms. We want separation of subject and victim clothing at all times. If you have a third-party scene or you have multiple suspects, we'll use a variety of rooms," he said.

Trace evidence works with the smallest samples imaginable. Taylor displayed a picture of an enlargement of a penny, with fibers, paint and glass chips next to it—the penny appeared enormous by comparison.

"These size samples right here would be plenty big enough for us to do all the analysis we need to do to say, if these items are consistent with, say, a known paint sample from a vehicle," Taylor said.

"Every contact leaves a trace," he said. The branch can analyze fibers, chemical or crystalline materials, powder, soil, fire debris, gun residue, explosives—even glitter—and trace it back to potential suspects.

In addition to pulling fibers or traces of soil from evidence and using them to determine a suspect, examiners can also pull fingerprints from almost any surface.

The Latent Print Branch is responsible for analyzing fingerprints and other impressions made in the ground, or other substances.

"Probably one of the better, the most overlooked piece of forensic evidence that there is, is footwear," Don Coffey, the Latent Print Branch chief, explained. "Because you don't hover into a scene, unless you rappel down there, you're going to walk in and walk out. So if you have the ability and the equipment to capture those footwear impressions, they are always there, whether it's carpet, on dirt, dust, tile or whatever."

Tire-track impressions also make up a good portion of the work done in latent prints. Investigators will take castings of the track, and latent print examiners will try to find a match in a tread database.

But of course, fingerprint analysis is the bread and butter of the branch.

The first thing to attack in a fingerprint is moisture, Coffey said. Fingerprint powder adheres to the moisture, and enables an investigator to lift the print from a surface, which is the "classic" method.

In the early 1980s, examiners discovered "super-glue fuming", or cyanoacrylate fuming. According to CID officials, a CID special agent was instrumental in helping to develop and bring this technology to U.S. law enforcement.

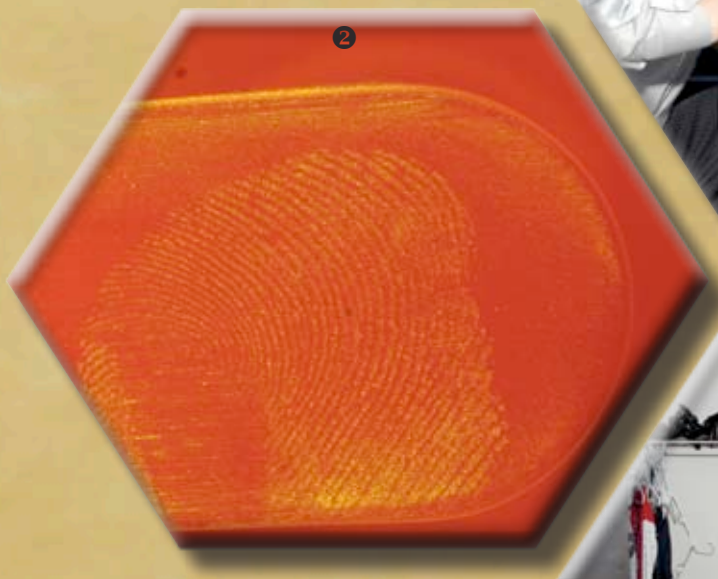
"Cyanoarcrylate, when heated, turns into…a gaseous form. And the gaseous form will attach itself to the molecules of moisture, and then it plasticizes (or makes plastic), that moisture," Coffey said. The cyanoacrylate print is very durable. "You can wipe this and rub on this and it's not going to come off. If it were a print, it would be gone."

Other techniques used to lift fingerprints include chemical development with ninhydrine, which will make the prints show up blue when heated; and spectral photography, which uses the whole light spectrum to take pictures of otherwise invisible fingerprints.

"You can develop a print in paper that's like 200 years old," Coffey said.

In fact, examiners recently lifted the prints of the nation's founding fathers off supporting documents related to the Declaration of Independence. "So, (you can lift prints from) just about anything you can talk about with the exception of water in a liquid state, fire and air.

1 A CID special agent dusts a plasma TV for fingerprints during a criminal investigation. (Photo by U.S. Army CID)



2 Scientists at the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory have many techniques to develop and identify fingerprints. (Photo by Jeffrey Castro)

"I've seen fingerprints come up on ice cubes before," Coffey added.

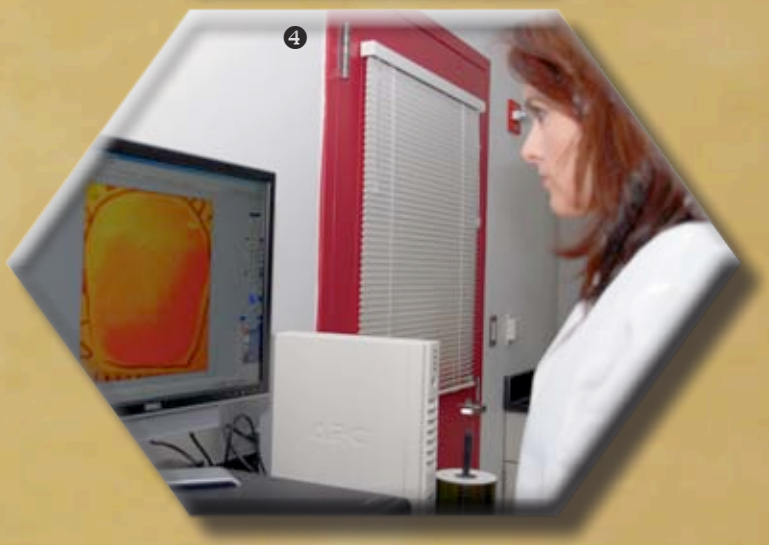
In a separate interview, Jeff Salyards, director of the Science and Technology Division, described how fingerprint technology is evolving. A naval laboratory in California is in the process of developing what Salyards terms a "magic fingerprint powder."

"They think they might be able to develop a nanoparticle that sticks to fingerprint residue and nothing else. So you could look at (a) table, throw some on, blow it off, and the only thing that would be there are fingerprints," he said.

Innovative technology is not limited to the Latent Print Branch, either. The Firearms and Toolmarks Branch at USACIL uses a state-of-the-art wet trap for ammunition recovery, as well as a 20-foot-long cotton trap, used to capture .50-caliber bullets.

"Now we can, for the first time ever, capture .50-caliber machine gun bullets right here at the Army Crime Lab," Don Mikko, chief of firearms and toolmarks, said.

The branch conducts microscopic comparisons of firearms, ammunition and other tools. They also restore serial



3 During a crime scene examination, special agents conduct bullet-trajectory testing for a death investigation. CID special agents process all death cases as if they were homocides to ensure all necessary evidence is collected and thoroughly analyzed. (Photo by U.S. Army CID)

4 Forensic scientist Lisa Carson examines a fingerprint treated with rhodamine and illuminated with a laser. The rhodamine causes the print to fluoresce under the laser. (Photo by Elizabeth M. Collins)

Former Soldier Brandon Huskins, now a student at the Firearms Branch at USACIL, practices identifying ammunition rounds. (Photo by Elizabeth M. Collins)

Jeffrey Castro

A CID special agent processes a crime scene as part of a breaking and entering (and subsequent homicide) investigation.

numbers and reconstruct shootings, Mikko said.

"What's unique about our branch in (relation to) toolmarks, is that we're the only crime laboratory—firearms branch, that is—that (handles) a large magnitude of toolmark-related cases," he said.

In the recovery rooms, examiners will test-fire guns into the water tank, wet trap, or cotton box, and recover the bullet and cartridge, and then make a comparison against the evidence. "We can tell you if a bullet or cartridge case was fired in and through that gun, to the exclusion of every other gun in the world," Mikko said.

"Every single firearm or every single tool has its own fingerprints, but we don't call them fingerprints—we call them individual characteristics," he added.

Once evidence has made it through all the appropriate branches, it goes back to evidence processing. There, it's repackaged with the results and returned to the submitter, Rhodes explained.

The Forensic Analysis Division receives roughly 3,000 cases a year from all military law enforcement agencies, each filtered first through evidence processing, and then the other branches. The casework is detailed, and can be time consuming, but the results are important pieces in an investigative puzzle.

"It's amazing to me how hard our agents have to work, the pressure they're under, the stakes they're under to get this kind of stuff right," Salyards said. "That's just an amazing resource that the Army has in the agent corps." ❖

1. A seasoned special agent analyzes evidence discarded at a mock crime scene to train new agents. (Photo by U.S. Army CID)

2. Many samples of firearms and ammunition are displayed in the hallways of the Firearms Branch at the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory at Fort Gillem, Ga., including these cross-sections of .50 caliber Browning machine gun bullets. (Photo by Elizabeth M. Collins)

3. Fingerprint technicians at USACIL use high-tech equipment to develop and remove prints from almost every type of material. (Photo by Elizabeth M. Collins)

4. Fingerprints treated with ninhydrine are heated with an iron. The chemical turns blue when heated, making fingerprints on paper visible. (Photo by Elizabeth M. Collins)

5. Samples of evidence examined at the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory at Fort Gillem, Ga. (Photo by Jeffrey Castro)

6. A CD after cyanoarcrylate treatment, which plasticizes the fingerprints and prevents their removal. (Photo by Jeffrey Castro)

7. A subject is fingerprinted after being apprehended by CID special agents. (Photo by U.S. Army CID)

A CID instructor at the U.S. Army Military Police School at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., demonstrates how to lift a shoe impression from linoleum using a sheet of Mylar. (Photo by Jacqueline M. Hames)

U.S. Army CID

Special agents in Iraq work with deployed Soldiers to process a mass gravesite left behind by Saddam Hussein's regime.

Shining light on battlefield forensics

Story by Elizabeth M. Collins

CRIME happens everywhere: on-post and off, in garrison and even in a combat zone, so Army Criminal Investigation Command agents must be prepared to solve cases anytime, anywhere.

Criminal investigations on the battlefield are "exponentially" different than those in garrison, said Special Agent Ronald Meyer, former chief of the Forensics Training Branch at the U.S. Military Police School. They present their own challenges, including the heat, the often limited time to process a crime scene and the ever-present risk of attack, not to mention the potential of finding gruesome war-crime evidence like the mass graves Meyer processed in Iraq in 2003.

"The threat is different," he said. "We were processing mass graves. I'm not worried about being at a location for an extended period of time and exposing myself to the enemy…here at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. Crime scenes have a tendency to be more hasty, higher threat, in Iraq and Afghanistan…so it's a lot different."

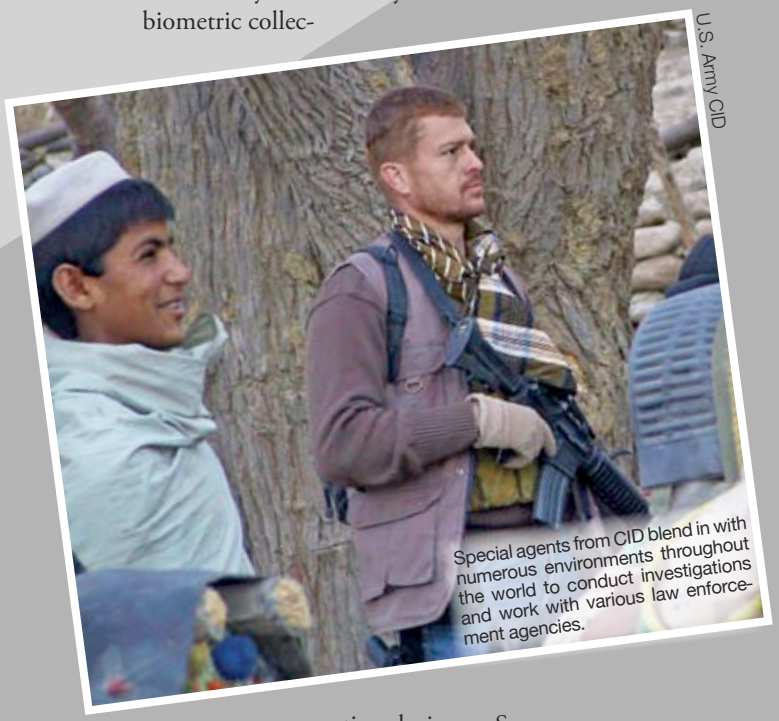
Regular Soldiers, however, fascinated by forensics they watch on television crime shows, have become force-multipliers for agents. In the past, a unit would probably have cleared a building and moved on or detonated an improvised explosive device, but now they might dust for fingerprints, take water bottles for DNA testing, and collect other evidence first.

Meyer actually sends a mobile training team to places like the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., to teach deploying Soldiers about site exploitation and battlefield forensics. In addition, CID provides battlefield forensic kits to brigade combat teams that include fingerprint powders, brushes, cards and rubber gloves.

According to Jeff Salyards, the director of science and technology (the Army's term for research and development) at the U.S. Army Criminal

a picture of this thing. I may have a screen or something where I can type in a little information, one line, about what this is. And then I hit print and there's now a bar code. I don't need a bunch of notes.

"Part two was we teamed with the biometric community. The guys in the field already have to carry a tactical biometric collec-

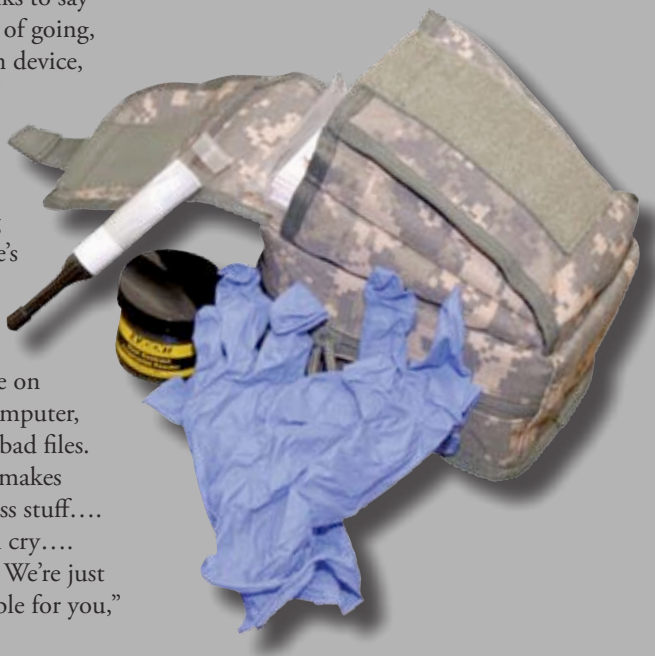


U.S. Army CID

Special agents from CID blend in with numerous environments throughout the world to conduct investigations and work with various law enforcement agencies.

tion device…. So we're teaming with those folks to say wouldn't it be great, instead of going, 'Here's your site exploitation device, here's your biometric thing,' if we just go, 'Here's one device that can be used for all those things?'

"And we're also working with the cyber piece so there's a computer that hides on that device…that lets you…look for certain files…. There's a USB device on here, so if I plug it into a computer, let me…see if there are any bad files. I'm excited…anything that makes those guys (have) to carry less stuff…. That seems to be a common cry…. You're carrying this anyway. We're just going to make it more capable for you," Salyards continued.



Investigation Laboratory at Fort Gillem, Ga., a new, rugged, GPS-enabled camera/computer/printer for Soldiers is also in the works for labeling and recording evidence.

"We're calling (it) a site-exploitation device," he said. "Right now… downrange, I'm in battle rattle, I've got gloves on, a helmet on. I've got a digital camera, hopefully. I've got a notepad…. It would be great if we could give them a digital camera that's GPS-enabled, that maybe has a way to input some information, and maybe even has a small printer attached that could give you a barcode. So this camera knows who I am, knows why I'm there…knows where I am. I take

Until recently, investigators also had to ship all of their evidence back to the States for processing at USACIL. But in 2005, the first joint expeditionary forensics facilities were established in Iraq to process fingerprints, firearms and even DNA collected downrange. The JEFFs have since been deployed to Afghanistan as well, with additional labs ready to deploy on an as-needed basis.

Some of the labs are still in development, and many of the 150-odd technicians have yet to be hired, but the ultimate goal is for the teams to rotate and spend two months stateside for every month of deployment, according to Col. Martin Rowe, chief of the Expeditionary Forensics Division.

"The challenge came, you know, we have all the technology and all the procedures well established here," he said. "How do you take that and apply it to an area where you don't have power all the time, or you don't have clean water or you've got dust and sand? Ruggedizing the equipment to make it operate in that type of environment was a huge challenge."

Evidence processed at the JEFFs has been used to link senior Taliban leaders to crimes, update watch lists, increase force protection and prosecute criminals in Iraqi courts.

"As far as I know, everybody's really pleased with the first rotation and support we're providing," said JEFF Operations Specialist Jerzy Mikulski, a retired CID special agent who recently returned from Afghanistan. "The time it takes to return any kind of forensic data back to the United States, can mean Soldiers' lives being saved. If we process evidence and it leads to some kind of active investigation, or provides some intelligence or data to units fighting, it's obviously very beneficial. Having assets on site or in theater provides (a) far more timely exchange of information.

"We take weapons, we process them for DNA, process them for fingerprints. We submit them to firearms and tool marks. Perhaps this weapon was fired before on our Soldiers and we recovered a round, and we compare them and we can tie it directly to a group of people or maybe even an individual who was involved in a sniper attack," he explained.

The JEFFs, Rowe added, could also be very beneficial in a natural disaster like Hurricane Katrina or the recent earthquake in Haiti, because the JEFFs will eventually be able to deploy on a moment's notice.

"That's another one of the things that we're planning…. When Hurricane Katrina came through, it wiped out three or four crime labs—the state lab, county lab and the city lab so they were without. The National Institute of Justice went down there and set

Tommy Monday, a latent print examiner with the Expeditionary Forensics Division at the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory at Fort Gillem, Ga., is preparing to deploy to Afghanistan with a joint expeditionary forensics facility.

Jacqueline M. Hames

Joint expeditionary forensics facilities are fully functional labs designed for forensics, including DNA and fingerprint identification and firearms and tool marks testing, in deployed environments.

U.S. Army CID

Regardless of the situation, CID investigators are expected to not only investigate crime, but be able to survive the rigors of a combat environment.

up some mobile labs, but we could certainly see this…maybe not doing forensic criminal work, but doing identification of remains…pulling…and profiling the DNA samples," he said.

Meyer added that from identifying remains in mass graves or after natural disasters, to keeping insurgents off forward operating bases, the possibilities are limitless and will change the future of battlefield forensics.

Soldiers will take "basic law enforcement skill sets and (apply) them to the battlefield for targeting, sourcing, prosecution, force protection and (medicine), which are the five forensic functions…. The future is that the military police will be the primary collectors of evidence on a battlefield… the lab will ultimately analyze it, and…if it's noncriminal, that analysis will then be given to the senior tactical commanders for operational decisions," Meyers explained. ❖

Jeffrey Castro

U.S. Army CID

CID special agents conduct realistic training before deploying to a combat zone.

(Bottom left) Prospective agents go through extensive crime scene training at the U.S. Army Military Police School, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. (Photo by Colby Hauser)

Devil in the details

TRAINING

Story by Jacqueline M. Hames

THE U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command trains its agents extensively at the U.S. Army Military Police School at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

CID agents complete law, testimonial evidence, drug operations, family advocacy, and forensics courses during their training, Marine Master Sgt. Shane Reichenberg, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the Military Police Investigation Division, explained.

The school is a joint facility, training representatives from all four services, said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ronald Meyer, former chief of the forensics-training branch. "We can provide standardized training across the entire spectrum. It's pretty interesting."

Some of the most intense training occurs during the forensic and testimonial evidence blocks, which comprise both classroom lectures and hands-on training in mock crime scenes.

Testimonial evidence training can be difficult because it is more of an art form than an exact science, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Barry Young, branch chief, said. Students role-play, one taking on the position of the investigator, the other, suspect, and


U.S. Army CID

Special agent candidates learn how to cast tire imprints in an austere operational environment at the U.S. Army Military Police School.

practice interrogation techniques.

The instructors provide guidance and mentorship, teaching students the ins and outs of conducting a suspect interview, and guiding them through the questioning process. One of the more difficult things to teach students is how to get people to talk.

Some of the processes are difficult to master, Young said, so that's one hurdle the students have to overcome.

"The only way to understand this job is to do it," Young said, adding that you have to be a people-person.

Forensics is the bulk of the training administrated at the school, according to Staff Sgt. Aaron Carter, Advanced Crime Scenes Investigative Techniques Course instructor.

"We have the Military Police Investigators Course, the CID Special Agent Course—those are the basic courses that we have come through this facility," Carter explained.

"When it's time for them to train on any kind of criminalistics, hands-on training, they come to this facility. We also have the Warrant Officer Basic and Advanced courses for CID agents, (as well as) the Advanced Crime Scenes Investigative Techniques course."

"In this training facility here we have 60 mock-crime-scene rooms, which is pretty neat," Meyer said. It allows us to train 60 students at a time to a specific standard."

The students learn how to process crime scenes, identify, collect and preserve evidence, and how to conduct death investigations, Meyer said. Twenty to 30 percent of what other law enforcement agencies teach in their advanced courses, CID teaches in its Basic Course.

When students learn how to process a crime scene in the Basic Course, they are taught a detailed list of things to check and given eight hours to process a mock scene, which is staged with fake evidence such as guns, liquor bottles and "bodies."

"A year from now, if they went to court, they could literally reconstruct this room based off their photographs, their measurements and all their notes," Reichenberg said of the detail involved in the training.

Photography is extremely important as a crime scene technician, Carter said, because much of the documentation for a crime is photographic. Both the Advanced and the Basic courses focus on honing photography skills.

"The first two and a half days (of the advanced class) are photography," Carter said. "Understanding the concepts and applications of photography,

Elizabeth M. Collins

CID agents at a U.S. Army Military Police School advanced course at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., measure blood splatter using synthetic blood.

the camera, the equipment that we have…the most important thing that an agent or an investigator needs to understand is how to use their camera."

In the advanced crime scene class, students also practice crime scene processing outside. They learn how to take casts of impressions in the ground, from boots or tires and the like; how to process shallow graves, how to process scattered remains, and how to analyze blood-spatter patterns.

"We're very, very thorough and that's one of the things we're renowned for: how thorough and accurate we are in our crime scene processing," Carter said.

"My goal for them is to understand the basics of what we teach them and to do a good job at the basics," he added. These "basics" are the platform for criminalistics, and every investigator needs a good foundation before he can excel, Carter explained.

The interrogation and forensics training is so detailed, one CID special agent would be able to operate in any environment independently, Meyer said.

"I know of no other training institution in the United States at the federal or state level that has the training capabilities that we have…and I've seen many of them," he said. "We train great students and agents." ❖

Jacqueline M. Hames

CID agents drop synthetic blood from varying heights onto different surfaces during blood-splatter training at the U.S. Army Military Police School at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

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U.S.ARMY

Major Procurement Fraud Unit

Story by Jeffrey Castro

TRACKING down those who commit fraud against the U.S. Army falls on the shoulders of the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command's Major Procurement Fraud Unit. Unwavering in their pursuit of the truth, wherever the evidence may lead, MPFU special agents leave no page unturned.

With six subordinate field offices and more than 27 resident agencies, the civilian special agents of MPFU conduct investigations into allegations of fraud associated with the Army's major acquisitions programs, such as weapons systems, support systems and civil/military construction contracts awarded by the Army Corps of Engineers. Many of the MPFU's offices are located within major contracting hubs, such as Atlanta and Detroit.

Over the past 10 years, MPFU has recovered more than $1.5 billion dollars, of which $411.2 million has been returned directly to the Army. Since 2005, MPFU has conducted investigations resulting in more than 225 indictments and 342 convictions, 240 suspensions and 288 debarments of contractors.

With such substantial sums of money at stake comes a large responsibility, one that all MPFU agents hold in the highest regard. However, money is not the only thing at stake; the lives of Soldiers can also hang in the balance due to fraud and greed.

MPFU agents investigate all types of fraud, kickback schemes, double-billing plots and bribery. Their investigations run the gamut from defective personal protective gear and ammunition to defective tank and aircraft parts. Some manufacturers have faked test results or substituted materials with cheaper, less effective ones, creating deadly situations for Soldiers.

In one case, a manufacturer who had a contract worth more than $6 million provided defective nuclear, biological and chemical filters for the M1A1 tank, resulting in fires inside several tanks. During one such fire a Soldier was killed. After countless hours of investigative work by the MPFU, the contractor pled guilty to major fraud against the U.S. government, false claims and false statements. The contractor was sentenced to 20 years in prison and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of $9.2 million.

In another case, a contractor failed to properly heat-treat main rotor blade pins used on the UH60 Black Hawk helicopter, causing corroding and cracking and eventual failure in the main rotor blade pins. The U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command issued a safety of flight alert and mandated the grounding of all UH60s while the proper repairs were made. The contractor was sentenced to pay restitution in the amount of $1 million plus interest, and placed on probation for five years.

"MPFU agents are highly motivated federal law enforcement officers, well versed in the investigation of fraud and corruption cases," said James Podolak, director of the MPFU. "They are trained to conduct their investigations with a view toward realizing the best possible remedy as a result of their investigations, whether they are in CONUS or in a contingency contracting environment.

"Many of MPFU's agents are recruited from the active-duty CID, who are then trained and mentored by senior MPFU agents, as well as educated in contracting, and in the investigation of fraud and corruption crimes."

To accomplish their mission, MPFU rarely uses any "CSI"-type equipment in their investigations—most of the time it's just good old-fashioned detective work and the tenacious spirit of the CID special agents that close cases. Special agents live for scouring documents and scanning files for that one piece of evidence that can break a case.

"We are dealing with sophisticated people who know how to keep their fraud hidden, or at least they try to," said Special Agent Mark Mansfield, assigned to the Atlanta Fraud Field

Since 2005, MPFU has conducted investigations resulting in more than 225 indictments and 342 convictions, 240 suspensions and 288 debarments of contractors.

Office. "Some of the cases consist of pretty sophisticated schemes, while others are crimes of opportunity…either way it's straight-out theft and once we get involved, they have nowhere to run."

Mansfield, who has a degree in finance, added that the complex nature of government contracting lends itself to making MPFU agents experts in the contracting field.

"You have to understand the product," said Mansfield. "The business of the Army has to go forward, and investigating these crimes not only serves as a deterrent, but it also keeps the Army whole."

MPFU conducts undercover operations and uses several forms of surveillance techniques during some of its investigations, according to Special Agent Wes Kilgore, special-agent-in-charge at the Pacific Fraud Field Office.

"We are a small organization with a critical mission," said Kilgore. "As long as there are large-dollar contracts, there will always be people who succumb to temptation, and we will be there to go after them with every resource we have available."

Being an MPFU special agent takes patience, since many of the cases do not produce immediate results. Some cases languish for years under mountains of documents and legal wrangling. That is why CID decided a number of years ago to assign civilian special agents to these unique investigations. Because the cases can take a long time to investigate and bring to trial, having the same case agents working them from start to finish is a big plus, according to CID officials.

"On average, each case takes about two years," said Kilgore. "We keep our investigations open past the investigative findings and support the prosecutors through sentencing and fining."

Podolak said some of the toughest challenges facing the MPFU special agents today are the highly complex fraud and corruption investigations, combined with an ever-increasing caseload.

"MPFU agents deploy alongside our Soldiers as combat multipliers to combat and prevent fraud and corruption on the battlefield, as well as responding to humanitarian relief efforts in the U.S. and elsewhere in the world," he said.

There are CID MPFU special agents on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan, there were CID special agents on the ground when troops were sent into New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, and there will be special agents deployed wherever there is an Army presence.

Podolak offered some advice to those who think they can get away with ripping off the Army:

"If you think you can succeed in committing fraud crimes, remember that MPFU exists to protect the Army's interests and to preserve the integrity of our contracting process," he said. "We will follow all leads to obtain all possible remedies…our agents will work to not only put you in jail for fraud or corruption, but they will also seek to take all those 'spoils' of your crime—your house, cars, other property and illicit bank accounts—and you will be debarred from doing business with the U.S. government." ❖

Jeffrey Castro works for USACIDC Public Affairs.

DOD's 'SECRET SERVICE'

Special agents will take a bullet if necessary, but their job is to get a principal out of harm's way and keep everyone safe from assassination, kidnapping, injury and embarrassment.

Story by Elizabeth M. Collins

THE next time you see the secretary of defense, chairman of the joint chiefs, or a number of other top Department of Defense and Army officials, you may want to think twice about moving too aggressively to get an autograph or take a picture.

That's because they're guarded by the Army's own version of the Secret Service: highly trained Criminal Investigation Command special agents who undergo the specialized Protective Service Training Course at the U.S. Army Military Police School at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

The three-week course follows Secret Service doctrine, teaching CID special agents—as well as military policemen and agents from other services—the basics of protection. Their training includes defense against an attacker, evacuation, surveillance detection, threat assessments, walking formations, high-speed defensive driving, helicopter operations and Sig Sauer pistol and MP 5-K submachine gun qualifications, as well as multiple protection exercises.

A week into the course, Special Agent Kevin Strong said the training had already changed his opinion of protective services:

"The general thought process… is they are a lot of babysitters," he confessed. "They just take care of the general, and walk him around and (Soldiers) don't realize how physical that is, or how much thought process goes into it…. The training builds confidence…. I went on a (protection) mission prior to having this training and it was nerve-wracking."

The course teaches them to remain vigilant, said C. William "Bill" West, a retired protective service agent and chief of the Protective Service Training Branch.

"My goal is that these folks take away the basic tools so that they can go out and…protect their protectees, understand that their first job is to protect the protectee, second job is to get off the 'X,'" West said, explaining that no protective agent should ever be considered a "bullet sponge" or be confused with a bodyguard—someone who's main role is to discourage threats by simply looking scary.

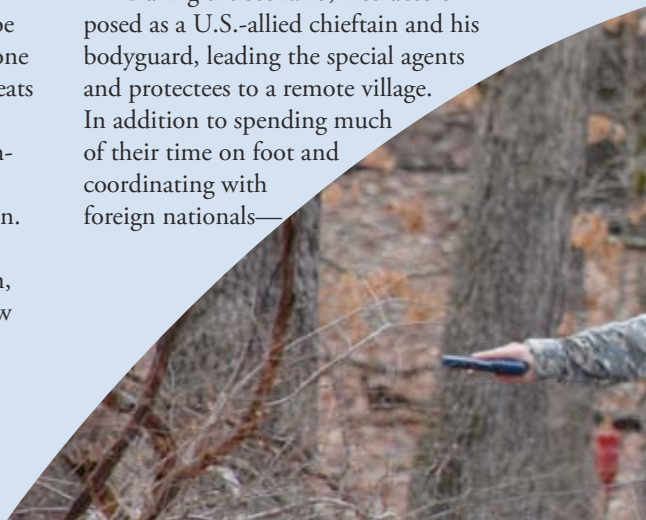
Most special agents are unassuming and of average build, including some very petite, but capable women. They aren't treated any differently, said Special Agent Amy Washington, who noted that as a woman, the new self-defense moves she learned were particularly helpful.

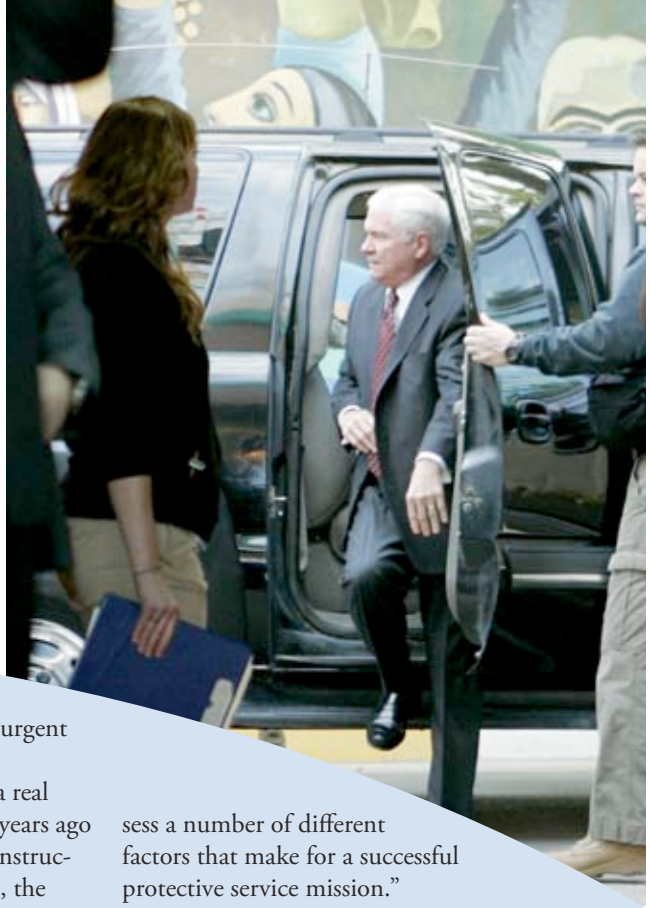
"Walking down the street in the dark, if somebody approaches me, I know more what you do than (in) regular armor training and combatives. This is something I can use every day of my life and it is a fun course," she said.

Special agents will take a bullet if necessary, but their job is to get a principal out of harm's way and keep everyone safe from assassination, kidnapping, injury and embarrassment. Embarrassment can include anything from a principal slipping and falling, to deliberate acts meant to discredit a protectee.

Much of their training runs counter to basic military training, and West and his team watched the students go from taking cover and grabbing flashlights instead of guns, to operating in teams of effective protective service agents guarding principals while deployed to "Badistan" in the final course exercise.

During the scenario, instructors posed as a U.S.-allied chieftain and his bodyguard, leading the special agents and protectees to a remote village. In addition to spending much of their time on foot and coordinating with foreign nationals—





(Far Left) CID special agents conduct protective service missions for numerous VIPs within the Department of Defense. (Photo by U.S. Army CID)

(Left) Secretary of Defense Robert Gates visits Baghdad, along with his CID security team. (Photo by Haraz N. Ghanbari)

(Below) Students in the Protective Services Training Course at the U.S. Army Military Police School, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., protect their principals and interact with local "Badistan" nationals during a training scenario. (Photo by Jacqueline M. Hames)

always a challenge, according to West—they faced an insurgent attack.

"This scenario is based on a real situation that occurred several years ago in Iraq," said team leader and instructor Jeff Bishop, who played Ali, the clan leader. "(It's about) their tactical decision making; how they position themselves and actually protect the protectee in a location where they've not had the luxury to do an advance… and what type of communication is going on.

"Is the (personal security officer) making some recommendations? Like, for example, 'We probably shouldn't go here if we haven't had the chance to do reconnaissance….' Also, we usually use a female on this day because we're using Middle Eastern culture…. Sometimes they're not really solicited for advice; they're not really looked upon that favorably as security officers, so we're trying to see how that student… interacts and handles herself…. And also when the attack occurs, we want to assess a number of different factors that make for a successful protective service mission."

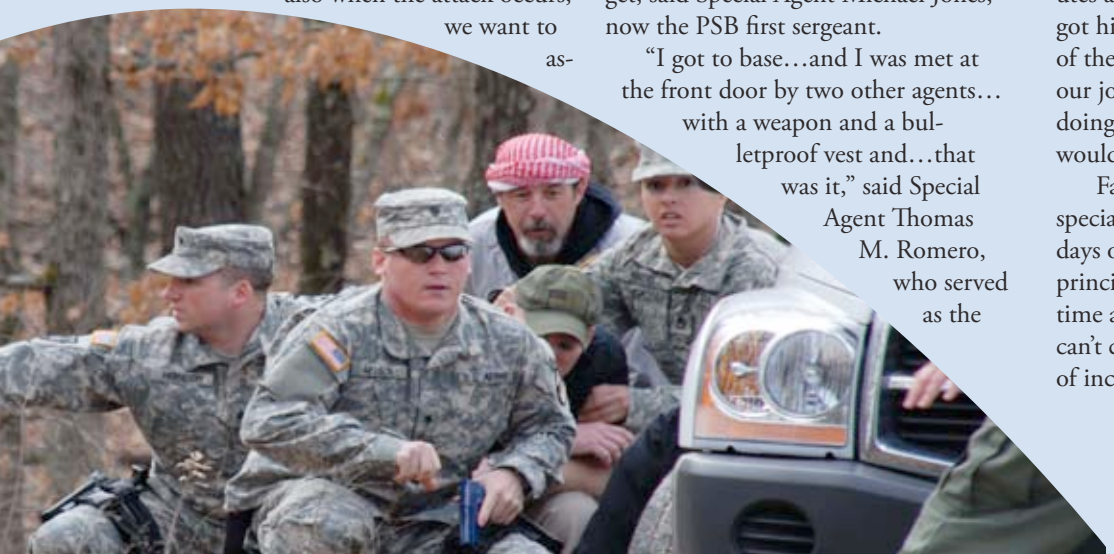
After the course, special agents can be assigned to the Protective Services Battalion at Fort Belvoir, Va., to continue on-the-job training and help guard one of the eight top Army and DOD leaders; sent to a small detail to protect a general officer overseas or downrange; or returned to one of the CID units worldwide, available to fill in on a protective service detail as needed.

September 11, 2001, changed the world of protective services, tripling the number of special agents and increasing the number and nature of threats they face. Most of the special agents believe the Pentagon attack targeted one of their principals and it was a time that no one who was on duty will ever forget, said Special Agent Michael Jones, now the PSB first sergeant.

"I got to base…and I was met at the front door by two other agents… with a weapon and a bulletproof vest and…that was it," said Special Agent Thomas M. Romero, who served as the PSO for former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. "Both sides of the highway were going southbound, so you can imagine trying to get one vehicle with lights and sirens going northbound to the Pentagon while everybody else was going southbound. But we responded."

Special Agent Robert Colon, PSB assistant operations officer, added that after the Twin Towers collapsed he was allowed to make one phone call. "I called my wife and said, 'Go get the kids, I'll call you at home.' Two minutes after the phone call the Pentagon got hit. She had no idea, but because of the fact that she was so in tune with our job…she was OK with what I was doing." It was eight days before Colon would be able to call his wife again.

Family support is crucial to the special agents, who might spend 250 days of the year on the road with their principals, in addition to deployment time and intense work hours. They can't call in sick or stay home because of inclement weather. During two



Washington blizzards in February that closed the federal government for a week, the agents were still at work, on time, every day.

In addition to missing their spouses and parents, PSB Family members face some unique challenges as well: special agents who are paid to expect bad things to happen, and can't turn off that switch at home.

"Every time you come home, it's a honeymoon," said Jones. "But…because you learn how to drive a certain way, sometimes you forget when your wife and kids are in the car…. My wife would very calmly lean over and say, 'Mike, you're not at work.'

"My oldest daughter didn't tell people what my job was because boys wouldn't come around the house…. I think it's just one of those things. It's having a cop dad, is really what it is… and sometimes it is just intimidating…. It's not to the kids because it's the norm to them, but everybody else, 'Your dad's a cop? We'll have you home by 10:30.' And we're also (Soldiers) too, so you get a double-whammy. You're a cop and you're a Soldier, which is the beauty of being a CID agent."

Another advantage is the opportunity to see the world. From Azerbaijan to Greece to Russia, "the Navy doesn't have anything on protective services. We go everywhere," said Jones. Special agents also accompany their protectees to events like the World Series and Army-Navy game, and West once stood close enough to the Sistine Chapel ceiling that he could have touched it.

"And it's not uncommon for the principal to turn to the agent…and say, 'Hey Tom, what do you think about this?' You've got a secretary of defense asking a CID agent for his or her opinion. That's a powerful place to be in. At the end of the day, I'm confident that the agents are going to give an honest assessment, but still keep their comments restricted to their respective lanes," added Lt. Col. Tom Denzler, PSB battalion commander.

In fact, their personal interaction with their principals, and the consideration and appreciation four-star generals and high-ranking government officials show them, mean the most to the special agents.

"It's more than any gift you could ever receive, any award…to have a senior leader say that he understands your sacrifices and thank you personally," Jones said.

"It's the best job in the Army," said Romero. "Other than the MP who's deployed…this is the singularly most important job in the entire MP Corps. We've got young Soldiers, E-5s, E-6s, young warrant officers, who are tasked to provide personal protection to our country's leadership, and they do it without question…. They perform brilliantly."

The truth is, the special agents don't know how successful they are. There have been times when they stopped or avoided attacks, but they don't know how many they've thwarted just by being there, and that's just fine with them. ❖

(Left) CID special agents conduct protective service training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. (Photo by Elizabeth M. Collins)

Special agents neutralize a threat during an "attack on principal" drill while receiving extensive training at the Protective Services Training Course. (Photo by Colby Hauser)

Courses take driver's ed to the EXTREME

Christian DeLuca

Jacqueline M. Hames

Student drivers in the Protective Services Training and Anti-terrorism Evasive Driving courses at the U.S. Army Military Police School at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., learn to reverse at high speeds. Each student in the driving courses is assigned a "clunker" to practice ramming into other cars.

Story by Elizabeth M. Collins

DRIVING: it's the portion of training that CID special agents and students in the Protective Services Training Course at the U.S. Military Police School, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., both look forward to and dread the most.

But the driving instruction students receive in the various courses offered at the school is anything but typical. They learn to ram other vehicles without causing injury, stop or turn their cars while driving at high speeds, and drive in reverse at 50 mph.

They are taught to use their vehicles—from police-packaged sedans and SUVs to an armored Humvee—as weapons, important tools to keep their protectees safe.

The school also purchases "clunkers" students can use to practice ramming and moving other cars. Airbags are removed and students wear helmets and padding for safety, while an instructor rides shotgun, ready to grab the wheel at any time.

"Each student will have a car that they hit another car with and ram them out of the way, in front and back (going straight and in reverse)," said Rodney Larson, lead instructor for the Anti-terrorism Evasive Driving Course. "If you get the technique, you can get them out of the way before you drive straight through them. You're using your car and your engine as a weapon, versus stopping and trying to get out and have a gunfight. You're mobile so you stay mobile."

The cars lose headlights, bumpers and other pieces as the training progresses, and according to C. William "Bill" West, chief of the Protective Service Training Branch, the regular cars go through a set of high-performance brakes every class, and high-performance tires every two or three classes.

The school does have an armored car with four-inch thick glass (it weighs about 12,000 pounds), which provides extra protection and time to get away.

"Lets take the position of a security driver and a chauffer," said West. "When a situation arises, the chauffeur is going…to get scared because he won't know what to do. The security driver is going to find out what to do and fast. When…someone is shooting at his car, or tries to block it, a chauffer may slam on the brakes or panic."

But, West added, the security driver or Protective Service agent will take immediate action, using a number of different tactics and techniques they learn to protect the "principals," and get them to a safe location.

Students can use their new driving skills in real life as well, Larson pointed out, especially accident-avoidance techniques. In fact, he was able to use a controlled ram to keep both himself and another driver safe when a collision in his private vehicle was unavoidable.

"You learn so much here that you just don't get anywhere else," said Special Agent Jason Herndon after undergoing the training. "We have a lot of guys, Reservists, who come in and they're police officers and they admit, 'We never had any of this driving.' So they can take it back to their units in the civilian world and train them as well." ❖

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